ELLIS'S

HISTORY OF WEYMOUTH

AND

MELCOMBE REGIS.

THE

HISTORY

AND

ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

BOROUGH AND TOWN

OF

WEYMOUTH

AND

MELCOMBE REGIS.

BY

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"Where, from the neighbouring hills her passage WEY doth path,
Whose haven, not our least that watch the mid-day, hath
The glories that belong unto a complete port;
Tho' WEY the least of all the Naiiads that resort
To the Dorsetian sands, from off the higher shore."

DRAYTON'S POLYOLBION.

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PREFACE.

THE great influx of migratory characters annually resorting to towns seated on the sea coast, has greatly tended to foster publications of the description here offered to the public, the utility of which is generally acknowledged; they present to those persons, "et id genus omne," in a condensed compass, an insight into the origin of the place of their location; they satisfy the inhabitants of various local particulars with which they were either imperfectly acquainted, or had allowed to lapse from their memory, and also furnish to the County Historian, correct and certain data, which tend to elucidate obscure transactions, and assist in forming decisive conclusions connected with the "days of yore," such has been the demand for these manuals of information, that nearly every town of note has now to boast of an History. The Towns of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, have hitherto been only noticed either in such ephemeral productions as Guides or Directories, which though well calculated for their specific purpose, as giving a mere outline, cannot be considered as sources from whence the public could draw largely for authentic information, or incidentally mentioned in works of a topographical nature, which were of necessity compelled to be concise in reference to local nar-

rations. The expediency of a work which while it exhibits the most striking features, and general peculiarities of a place, at the same time sufficiently diffuse, upon its ancient state, as to present the most correct account attainable, and so condensed as to avoid uninteresting detail and tedious prolixity, is self evident. The following sheets date their origin from such a feeling. In a work which professes avowedly to record ancient historical transactions, much diversity of character cannot be expected, for prior to the commencement of any correctly connected records, numerous documentary and traditional matters are to be arranged, and discrepancies which had been preserved through inattention, rectified; for in the early dawn of infant knowledge, even the location of places was very inaccurately defined; where intelligence was wanting, imagination supplied its place, and names were recorded in a manner quite as arbitrary; "the march of intellect" lay buried under those dark clouds which the sun of general information had not yet risen high enongh to disperse; he who knew but little, had few means of communicating his quantum of information, while he who knew nothing, was contented to live in ignorance; from such causes have arisen the infinity of errors, the variety of names, and the commixture of truth and of fiction which perplex and embarrass the Historian.

To the Visitor and Resident, it is presumed the following work cannot be considered as unnecessary or uncalled for, while to the Inhabitant and Native, such historical annals must be an object of natural anxiety, and eagerly sought after, especially when the Charter

of Incorporation—that grant of their privileges, is fairly placed within their reach, and as Camden observes "If any there be, which are desirous to be strangers in their owne soile and forrainers in their owne city, they may so continue and therein flatter themselves, for such like I have not written these lines, nor taken these pains."

The Author deprecates criticism on a work of this nature, he is fully aware that he incurs a fearful responsibility, as the most ungrateful task which any writer can undertake, is that of a work of entirely a local character, for with whatever discretion he may proceed, he must offend that mighty phalanx who think they cannot be too lightly censured or too highly praised; and the Author is placed between the perilous alternative either of drawing down hatred on himself, or of sacrificing his duty. Truth alone should be the object of his undertaking, unfettered and unshackled; such a plan has been adopted in the following pages, and this, in justice, must be said, that in all the observations which have incidentally arisen, the main point kept in view, has been to preserve an unbiased feeling, nor has prejudice been allowed in any shape to pervert judgment.

The County of Dorset offers to the inquisitive eye, a fruitful source of contemplation, its maritime situation and its numerous convenient creeks, early offered opportunities for the enterprizing researches of the Tyrian Merchants, they sought out its stores of hidden wealth, planted their colonies and stamped upon its shores an indelible outline of their locations; the same

conveniencies induced the war-like Roman and predatory Dane to follow their steps; while its interior exhibit strong characters of the various nations who have successively ruled over Britain. The various traces of Phœnician pottery,—the numerous altars of Druidical sacrifice,—the great variety of Aboriginal, Roman, Saxon, and Danish erections, together with the tottering fragments of Baronial and Monastic edifices, add to which the no less interesting and inexhaustible range of antediluvian remains, which its cliffs display, all combine in telling a tale of "bye gone days." It certainly betrays a great supineness and laxity of inclination, that no attempt has been hitherto made to form a County Museum, where a connected series of reliques might be accessible to the Durotrigian; a faint and somewhat imperfect attempt has been made in these pages, to draw attention to the subject, while the sketch of the Geology of the Bay will it is hoped tend to the same purpose.

The Author cannot but regret that the subject of the following sheets, has not devolved upon a more efficient individual, the diffidence accompanying a work first ushered into the area of public ordeal, creates a dread which it is difficult to counteract; that the tongue of criticism should be altogether silent, or that objections should not be raised, is not to be expected even by a more sanguine individual than the writer, yet to him however, it is a reflection, not unattended with comfort, that in the present instance however rigorously he may be judged, few escape without censure; as the world is more liberal of blame than of praise, and it is no less soothing to bear in mind, that truism of Johnson, who says "No writer pleases all, so every writer may please some."

To those friends who have so kindly assisted him in wading through the mazy labyrinth of MSS., and to others who have favored him with the perusal of various documents, the Author begs to express his warmest acknowledgements, and should a second edition be called for, any errors, which might have accidentally occurred in the present, shall be corrected.

For the Work now presented to the public, which has greatly exceeded the original arrangement, by the acquisition of several curious and scarce records highly deserving notice, and which, will doubtless be duly appreciated, the Author feels assured, the moderate price charged, will not be a consideration to any one. As the early History of these Towns forms a subject of peculiar importance, and combines a mass of local matter, highly essential to the knowledge of, and connected with the welfare of the inhabitants in general, it is particularly gratifying to him, that he is thus instrumental in placing within the reach of his fellow townsmen, that fund of individually interesting information, which a more expensive publication might have prevented some of them the opportunity of possessing.

Weymouth, November 16*th*, 1829.

HISTORY

AND

ANTIQUITIES OF WEYMOUTH.

WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE-REGIS have for various centuries held a pre-eminence in the history of this country, either as commercial ports, or a convenient bending to the trickery of political power, and latterly have risen into notice from their powerful attractions as a sea-bathing and fashionable watering place.

The two towns viewed each other with a jealous eye, and frequent were the contentions fomented by private pique and party animosity, carried on with a degree of hostility, that redounded to the honour of the heads or hearts of neither of them; but as Weymouth had the priority given to it in charters, and public records, and is unquestionably the most ancient of the twain; whatever relates generally to both, will be embodied in the description of Weymouth, and whatever more particularly bears upon Melcombe, will be reserved for that town, consequently, if there is any omission in the account of Melcombe, it will be found in that of Weymouth.

DESCRIPTION OF WEYMOUTH.

In the Western part of the maritime county of Dorset, on the South side of the river Way, at the foot of a high hill, whose base is washed by the blue waters of the British Channel, which forms a Bay that is not excelled in the Globe, in 2° 34min. West Longitude, and 50° 38min. North Latitude, is situated the ancient Town of Weymouth, is 88 leagues by sea, and 130 miles by land from London; and 8 miles from the county town, is in the diocese of Bristol, and under the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon of Dorset.

It derives its name from its locality with respect to the river Way which rises at Upway, at the base of Windbatch Hill—

"With fragrant smells and fine a freschet runs."

passes by Broadway and Radipole, and empties itself into the bosom of the ocean, at the West end of the harbour, at Weymouth. The river itself is small, but as it makes its progress towards the ocean, it gradually expands, which is also augmented by several tributary streams, from East Chickerell and the adjacent villages, and when the sea rushes forward at high tides, a wide expanse of water is distinguishingly visible; where in times by-gone, the proud prows of the Roman navy have ploughed, where man now lords it over with sovereign sway.

The river Way*, is derived from the British word Wæẏe,— *Gwy*, — *Gowy*,— *Gway*,— *Wye*,— *Way or Wey*, signifying water, and in its course gives name to several villages, viz., Upway, or Way St. Lawrence, or Way Baiouse; Broadway, or Way St. Michæls; Ridgeway, or Way St. Nicholas; Stotingway; Creketway; Causeway; Way-rivard; Rowaldsway; Helway, Holewell, Hellwell, or Haldgewell; and Waymouth; these are all mentioned in ancient records, and the majority of their names are still existant.

Mu ð, *Mou*,— *Moue*. — *Mue*, and *Muth*, are Saxon words, signifying the mouth of a river, — Wæẏe-Mu ð.

To trace thee to the date, when yon fair sea,
That clips thy shores, had no such charms for thee;
When other nations flew from coast to coast,
And thou hadst neither flag nor fleet to boast.

COWPER.

HISTORY.

Weymouth has hitherto been considered to have been unknown to the Romans, but this ignorance, must have been the result of imperfect knowledge. Hutchins says, "that we meet with no marks of Romans here" but if he had properly examined the locality of its situation, and the industrious capability of that enterprizing nation to turn every natural advantage to their own benefit, he would have retracted his opinion.

* There are three bridges of public thoroughfare over the Way: Broadway, Radipole, and Weymouth.

Mr. Baxter says that it is the *Clavinium* of Ravennas, which the Vatican manuscript erroneously reads *Clavinio*, and so called from its situation with respect to the Isle of Portland, which, from its being in the form of a bent or crooked arm, may most assuredly be properly called *clauanis* from the British words *Clay-ynis*. Certain it is, that from the long vista of ages which have transpired, and the numerous alterations made by the improvements of cultivation, the recession of the sea, and the consequent deposit of calcareous, alluvial, and vegetable matter, the gradual, though sure elevation of the land on which the town of Melcombe now stands, and various other contingent changes which have been occurring, render it to this day, a rather difficult task to point out where the Roman eagle unfurled its banners; but yet, still enough is left to the antiquarian to convince him his surmises are correct, that the blue waves of the Atlantic have rolled over the place where the town of Melcombe rears its bold front, and that the Roman navy have oft and anon visited its shores.

At the foot of a hill in the parish of Radipole, which is washed by the river Way, there are evident traces of a Roman road; twenty-five years back, they were much more visible than they are now; in the summer of 1828, I visited the spot in company with a gentleman of antiquarian research; it is evidently a vicinal way leading to the via Iceniana or Ikenild Street, in a right angle with the tumuli on the hills, and most probably used as a disembarking port for the military to the camp at Maiden Castle, indeed a lane leading from Broadway, still retains a faint memorial of its former name in that of Icen Lane; a coin of the Emperor Hadrian has been found here on this very spot, which is also a corroborating proof of the existence of the Romans.

In August, 1812, some farmers' labourers were engaged in ploughing the brow of a hill named Jordan, in the immediate vicinity of Weymouth, the plough-share struck against some hard substance, which, upon further examination, proved to be an unbaked Roman Urn, filled with silver coins of various Roman Emperors, they were eagerly distributed, some few of which fell lo my lot, the description of which is given in the latter part of the work.*

* John Milner the Antiquarian says, "that a popular tradition existed in his time, 1790, that a considerable treasure was hidden in the earth, somewhere between Weymouth and Purbec. Query—Could this at all allude to the Roman Coin found on Jordan Hill?—Another tradition exists, that here formerly, viz. Jordan Hill, was a a town, no doubt alluding to the Roman station.

This is again a proof of the knowledge the Romans possessed of this place, and it most probably was another landing station.

The scarcity of records and official documents in several reigns antecedent and subsequent to William I., and even when they became more frequent about the reign of Henry III. many of them have perished in the ravages of time, hence the series is often interrupted, and many chasms occur, which occasion much perplexity and obscurity, and even with regard to those which have come down to our own times, the most eminent transcribers and even antiquarians are not always accurate in their translations, and frequently in endeavouring to render a passage or translation more clear or intelligible, the very reverse in several instances occur, and the antiquarian finds himself like a traveller who is led on by an ignis fatuus, till at last he is thrown *nolens volens* comfortably into a bog, akin to our sister Island, or like a decipherer who wants a sufficient number of ciphers to form a key.

Innumerable instances of this occur in the records of most places, and accounts of ancient families; this must plead for any hiatus which might occur either in the History of Weymouth, or its earliest possessors.

The earliest evidence there is of this town, is about nine hundred years ago, where the Saxon Chronicles state that King Athelstan, A. D. 938, in consequence of a false charge being brought against his half brother Prince Edwin*, of a conspiracy to dethrone him, ordered him to be exposed in an open boat without sails or oars to the fury of the raging waves.

The young Prince accompanied by his Esquire, entered the boat protesting his innocence, but finding the King inexorable and overcome by despair, cast himself headlong into the sea. His attendant met with a better fate, for he was driven with the corpse of his master, on the coast of Picardy.

King Athelstan was at first secretly pleased with this occasion to destroy his brother, but the moment he had gratified his passion, was seized with a grievous remorse, and to quiet his conscience, confined himself for several years at Lamport, in Somerset, by way of penance, and also was advised by the monks to perform several meritorious acts; with this view he

* Prince Edwin, it appears, had visited the East, and while there, had been initiated into the sublime mysteries of Free Masonry; on his return, he instituted a grand lodge at York, was elected grand master of the craft in England, and formed the constitution of the English Lodges. It is more than probable, that the necessary meetings of the craft whose sublime mysteries are excluded from the prophane eyes of the *communis vulgus*, were the cause of this suspicion of his conspiring against the throne of his brother, and led to his murder.

founded the Abbeys of Michelney and of Middleton, (now called Milton,) in Dorset, where prayers were offered day and night for the souls of himself, and his brother Edwin. This might also have been quickened by a miracle which the monks (who were never backward in relating the wonderful acts of their saints in all ages) state to have occurred to him at the battle of Brunenburg, where he defeated the pagan Danes, that Saint Sampson appeared to him, and restored his sword which had dropped out of the scabbard, and by whose influence, such a signal victory was wrought.

By the charter or deed granted to the Abbey, he gives to God, St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Sampson. and St. Branwalader, (this last Saint appears to have been a British one,) for his soul and the souls of his ancestors and successors, Kings of England—

"al þ þaben þiðin ꝓcoꝛe oꝛ Wæye-Muð ⁊ halꝼ ꝓbꝛym oꝛ þ Wæye-Muð ube aþ ꝓee: þelꝼ aceꝛe ꝼoꝛ þ peꝛe ⁊ þ peꝛe hunbe ðꝛie ðayꝛnꝓ ⁊ æne ꝓealþeꝛn by þ peꝛe ⁊ ꝓixby ꝓeoꝼon hýb."

All that water within the shore of Waymuth, and half the stream of that Waymuth out at sea: twelve acres for the support of the wear and its officer, three Thaynes and a saltern by the were, and sixty-seven hides of land in its neighbourhood, —(probably at Wyke.)

This grant of Weymouth and the stream of water, seems to have been made for the purpose of supplying the goodly abbot and his fraternity with fish, to regale their paunches on fast days or during lent, as the grant says "ad victum."

The natural inference to be drawn from this, is, that even in those early days, Weymouth was considered a fishing town of some repute, a character which it has not yet lost, as the fish, lobsters and prawns, on this coast, clearly demonstrate.

The next mention of Weymouth occurs in a Saxon charter of king Ethelred, which is existant in the archives of the Dean and Chapter of Winton.

The king gives to his faithful minister Atsere, to possess it during his life, and license to leave the inheritance at his death, to whomsoever he likes, a certain portion of land in that place, called by its inhabitants Wæꝛe or Wyck, (this last signifies sinus ripæ, a curving or reach, or bending of the shore) near the Isle of Porteland. It was signed by the king with the sign of the cross*; by the archbishop of Canterbury, Dun-

* From this circumstance, it may be concluded that Ethelred, at least at that time, was incapable of writing his name, as the grant runs in this form—

stan, and Oswald, Archbishop of York; the Bishops Athelwold, Lyning, and Berold; the Ministers Æthelmer, &c. there is no date mentioned, but it is certain that both Oswald and Dunstan died about 988, and in the year 980, Dunstan was Grand Master of the fraternity of free and accepted Masons in England.

We find no mention of it again, till the time of Edward the Confessor, who in 1042, having caused a charge to be brought by Robert Bishop of London, afterwards Bishop of Canterbury, a Norman, whom Edward had brought over with him, and the Earl Godwin, the King's Father-in-law, accusing his mother Queen Emma, of consenting to the death of her son Alfred, of endeavouring to poison another of her sons (Edward) and of maintaining a criminal and infamous connection with her kinsman Alwin, Bishop of Winton; to the King's and her own dishonor, the Queen was condemned by a council specially convened for that purpose, to purge herself by Fiery Ordeal "called ordalium," which, protesting the malice of her defamers and denying the various charges brought against her, she had offered to do.

Accordingly the Queen at the Cathedral at Winchester, in the presence of the King, various nobles, and a crowded assembly collected together, passed bare-footed and blind-fold over nine red-hot ploughshares of iron, without harm, or the slightest symptoms of fear. By this act, she so completely cleared herself of the accusations, that her character is frequently referred to, as a specimen of what female chastity is able to accomplish.

The King was grievously repentant for his bigoted credulity, and was so affected with the charge, that he publicly solicited his mother's pardon; but the church of Winton, felt itself highly offended at the charge brought against the Bishop, and in its thirst after worldly influence and wealth, compelled the

‡ *Domino Dominorum, dominanti in seculo Seculorum.*

Ego Ethelred Rex Anglorum, Gubernator et Rector, cuidem mihi fidelissime ministro Atsere perpetualiter concedo Wæye aut Wyck, etc. et habeat et possederant quandiu vivat et postquam universitatis via adierit, cuicunque voluerit hæridi derelinquat in æternam Hæriditatem, etc.

And is thus signed,—

† Ego Ethelred Rex, etc.

There are several charters granted by Kings of England and individuals of high official rank, still in existence, where the sign of the cross is affixed before the name as a token of confirmation of the act, "signum crucis manu propriâ, pro ignoratione literarum," and from this circumstance, is derived the phrase of signing, instead of subscribing a document, and we moreover observe, that in the present day, if an individual is unable to write his attestation to a document, the common pratice is for him to mark the sign of the cross at the foot of it, which is considered in all respects as legal an act as if it had received his signature.

Kingly Confessor to severe penance, and of giving nine manors to appease the craving paw of our Holy Mother Church, accordingly "Ex libello donationum Wintoniæ Ecclesiæ, S. Edwardus rex, dedit Portelond, Wikes, Hellwell, et Waimuth maneriis, cum ceteris aliis, ad Wintoniæ ecclesiæ." Which grant, it appears, was confirmed by a bull of that keeper of heaven's gates, Pope Innocent II., sans date.

It is quite evident from the survey in Doomesday Book, that the church of Winton but little enjoyed the benefit of the grant, for Weymouth is there mentioned as having been during king Edward's time, held *freely* by nine Thanes, and Hellwell by Aluuim, and Portland as being part of the land of king Edward, "in sua vitâ," though they were afterwards, in the reign of Henry I. claimed by the church of Winton.*

In Doomesday Book, A. D. 1080 to 1086, there are various parcels of lands, separately surveyed under the name of *Wai*, and *Waia*, without any other additional name to distinguish them; they are held by different individuals and appear to relate to the several villages situated on the banks of the *Wæye*, but the following extract, included in a list of lands, belonging to Robert, Earl of Mortaigne or Moreton, afterwards Earl of Cornwall, maternal brother to the King, and brother to Bishop Odo, † which is the only one that has any reference to the salterns, salinæ, or salt-pits, which we are certain where in existence at the time of Athelstan's grant, and are there specified, (see page 5) completely, I think, identifies it alluding to Weymouth; they were more probably situated where the town of Melcombe-Regis now stands, or else, on a low piece of ground formed by the recession and embanking of the sea, contiguous to the present harbour, now called the Town Marsh. ‡

* Rapin, who relates this story on the authority of Brompton and Knighton, after mentioning some apparent discrepancies, boldly says the whole is a monkish fable; but Robert of Gloucester, minutely describes the whole trial, and names the nine manors, in reference to the nine red-hot plough shares.

† Robert Duke of Normandy had by concubine named Arlotta or Harloth, (from whom women of easy virtue are called harlots) three sons, William I. of England, — Robert, Earl of Mortaign, — and Odo, Bishop of Baieux and Earl of Kent. The Earl of Moreton was not overburdened either with courage, wisdom or learning, but William and Odo, were both ambitious as the realm well testifies.

‡ It is a little singular that so late as the year 1823, some individuals of Melcombe were anxious to form a company for the same purpose of forming salt pans on that very spot, but the "powers that be," would not grant a lease for the purpose.

It might possibly be alledged, that the quantity of land surveyed, is more than Weymouth now consists of, yet when we take into consideration the various alterations in the parcelling of lands since that period, the numerous lords that have nodded their will over their dependent tenants, and as the next parish, that of Wyke-Regis, does not occur in Domesday Book, which, more than probable, was included in the survey — we need not wonder at the apparent difference.

Ex Archiv Decan et Capit Excest.

Amun ten (et) de Co (mitis) Wai : Novem Taini libe : (re) tenuer : (unt) T : R : E: (Tempore Regis Edwardi) et geldâb : (geldabat) p : (ro) IIII hid : (as) tra : (terræ) e : est IIII car : (ucatas).

In dnio (dominio) e : (est) I car (carruca) et III coscez : cu : (cum) I villô : hnt (habent) I car (carucata).

Ibi II molini redd : (unt) XXXII sol : (idi) et XII salinæ : et IX ac : (ra) ptî : (prati) et IX Q : (quarantinæ) pasturæ : Valet IIII lib : (ra).*

For those who are not familiar with the language of Doomesday Book, the following translation is subjoined :

Amun held Wai of the Earl. Nine Thaines held it freely, in the time of King Edward, and were gelded for four hides of land, that is four carucates.

In the domain there is one plough and three cottagers with one villain — they have one carucate.

There are two mills, which yield thirty-two shillings, twelve salt pans, and nine acres of meadow, and nine furlongs of pasture, value four pounds.†

King Henry I. grants in a charter, sans date, (but probably 1110,) to the Prior and Monks of St. Swithin, Winton, the ports of Waimuth and Melecumb, with all its appurtenances,

* It was my intention to have inserted a fac simile of the entry, but the great difficulty of following the peculiar inflection of the letters, deterred me from the attempt.

† Thaines were individuals who held lands of the king and were bound to obey him when called upon.

Coscez or cottager, were tenants who paid rent for small parcels of land, such as gardens, &c.

Villain or Villani were tenants who held cottages and lands at the will of the lord, and bound to certain work and corporeal service.

The Hide of the Saxons and the Carucate of the Normans, were the same allotment of ground, and signified as much arable land as could be tilled in a year by one plough, estimated at 100 acres or more. Four Virgates made a Carucate,—Quarantini, a furlong.

together with the manors of Wike and Portelond, which king Edward gave them, and that they might enjoy all the liberties, wrecks, and all free customs, by sea and by land, as they had ever enjoyed them.

King Henry II. confirms by charter, sans date, to the Prior and Monks of St. Swithin, Winton, the port of Waimue, and the whole land of Melcumb, which by right belongs to their land of Wike, which king Edward gave them, and granted them the several liberties, &c.

Both these documents, at first sight, appear of a rather contradictory nature, and opposed to the foregoing statement from Doomesday Book.

Hutchins, who quotes them both, "Ex Archiv Decan et Cap. Winton," says "It is not easy to account how Wai belonged to the Earl of Moreton at the time of the Norman survey, when these charters make them belong to the church of Winton before and after that period," and then unable to account for this discrepancy, and as if determined to blink the question, he very demurely suspects their correctness. This reasoning is not so conclusive as he suspects, and is easier to account for than he imagines; for presuming as those charters state, that the church of Winton had possessed those manors which they obtained at the death of king Edward, by the benefit of his repentant grant before mentioned, (see page 7) yet on the arrival of William I., he probably alienated them from their "deep manger," and granted them to his brother, the Earl of Moreton, which was nothing singular, as a great many other manors and lands were similarly served and distributed to his followers, which was the price of their adherence to him when he invaded England.*

On the death of the Earl, which happened about 1090, the church of Winton might claim it again, which claim Henry I. on his accession to the throne soon after, confirms by the foregoing charter; and this is corroborated by the fact, that Henry had alienated the Earl of Moreton's lands, and being moreover desirous of obtaining the good will of the church, had appointed his own nephew Henry, to the Bishopric of Winton.

Certain it is, that those manors are not mentioned in the Norman survey, in the list of lands belonging to that church; but in an inquisition of lands, held in capite 24th, Henry III., 1239, appears the following entry; "terra Regis Prior Winton

* William I. gave to Robert, Earl of Mortaign, 973 manors and lordships, and the whole of the county of Cornwall, for the service of five knights' fees; Richard de Clare, 171 ditto; Roger Mortimer, 132 ditto, besides other hamlets.

et convent tenent Wyk, Portelond, et Hellwell, in liberam elemosinam de antiquo feufamento regnor: Anglor," and although Weymouth is not mentioned, it must be included in that of Wyke, the difference between the two parishes not being at the time clearly defined, and 32nd Henry III. in a grant to the same church, Weymouth is there stated to be a dependancy of Wyke, and in the Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum, 43rd Henry III., Wyke, Weymouth, and Hellwell, are there stiled as dependancies of Portland.

The nearer we advance after this period the oftener does the name of Weymouth appear, and a more minute account of it will be described under the head of the MANOR.

In the following extract from the original manuscript in the Bodleian library, of the Itinerary of John Leiland 1538, appears the following account of Weymouth, 30th Henry VIII.

"At this Uphill, (Upway) on the right hand, as I cam is the very Hedde of Way Ryver, that of sum ys caullid Wile.

"Heere I cam into the way, that ledith from Dorchester to Waymouth, three goode mils distant from this place, by al the which way, I rode as yn a base level ground.

"The Tounlet of Waymouth lyith strait agayn Milton on the other side of the haven, and at this place, the Trajectus is by a bote and a rope, bent over the haven, so that yn the ferybote they use no ores.

"Waiymoth hath certein libertees and priveleges, but ther ys no Mair yn it.

"There ys a key and warf for shippes.

"By this Towne, on a hill, ys a Chapelle of Ease.

"The paroche Churche ys a mil of.

"The ryver of Way or Wile, risith not four mils full above Waymouth by Northe Weste at Uphill, in the side of a greet hille.

"The se ebbith and flowith up, aboute a two mils above Waymouth.

"Ther ys a little barre of sande at the haven mouth.

"Ther rynneth up by the right hond of the haven, a great arme of the se, and scant a mil above the haven mouth, on the shore of this arme, ys a right goodlie, warlyke Castel made, havyng one open barbicane.

"This arme runnith up farther a mil as in a Bay to a point of land, where a Trajectus ys ynto Portlond by a long causey of pible and sand."

And in another part of his Itinerary are the following apparently notes.

"The Soile betwixt Waymouth and West Lelleworth is not very frutefull, apter for catelle then corn, and no grete plenty of woode.

"Waiymouth Town rite agen Milton, on the other side of the Haven yt is bigger than Miltoun ys now.

"The Est South Est point of the Haven of Waymouth ys caulid St. Aldelm's point, beyng a litl foreland.

"Ther ys a Chapelle by on the Hille. The Paroch Chirch ys a mile of — a Kay for shippes in the town — the Haven Mouth almost at hand. Half a mil and more to the New Castelle — an open Barbecane to the Castelle.

"Weimouth is counted 20 mils from Pole.

In a manuscript in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, is the following account of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis, by John Coker, 1653.

"From Weeke the sea working somewhat farr into the land, yieldeth a convenient and safe harbor for shipping, in the mouth of a small river, called Way, from which the Haven hath the name of Waymouth.

"This brooke, scarce three miles off, breaketh out at Way, which it nameth, now, from the situation, called Upway, but more anciently from the owners, Way-Bayhouse, for the land it was of Allen de Bayouse, a baron in king John's tyme, whose son John, 28 Henry III., founded a chauntry there, but his cozen and heire, Elias Raybone, forfeited it to king *(Edw.)*.

"After, in Richard his tyme, it was purchased by Walter Frampton's ancestors, and alienated by his sonne Robert unto John Gould, who left it to his sonne John, now owner of it. *(Is still in that family.)*

"The ryver Way, passing thence, names little villages, and then falls into the sea at Waymouth, opposite to which, on the other banke, stands Melcombe, an ancient borough, between whom and Waymouth arose great controversy, both enjoying like priveleges, and both challenging the particular immunities of the Haven, which lyeth in the very bosom of them; each of them have taken the overthrow of the other: but not resting by that, continually commenced new suits.

"At length having wearied the lords of the council and other courts with their contentious importunities, by the advice of that wise counsellor, William Cecil, lord treasurer of England, they were by an act of parliament *(the 13th of queen Elizabeth)* incorporated in one bodye, governed by one mayor, and aldermen, his assistants.

"Immediately on which, they conjoined themselves together

by that faire bridge of tymber which we see; yet, still they send either of them, two burgesses to parliament.

"Both these towns have certainly risen from the conveniancy of the harbour, and from small beginnings, for neither of them till late tyme had a parish church.

"Waymouth, without all question, is much the ancienter, which may appeare in both that it had the precedency given in the name, when by the aforesaid act of unitye it was decreed that it should be called the towne of Waymouth and Melcombe-Regis, as also that you shall find mention of it in some ancient records, and that it was heretofore of very sufficient ability well appears, in that they were able to assist their then king Edward III., with 15 ships and 263 mariners, at the time he prepared to besiege Calice in France, which rate, I assure you, no haven in these parts came near unto; but they were not to blame to make what strength they could against the French, who, both then, and many times sithence, have assayed to burn their towne, and destroy their inhabitants.

"Waymouth as now ytt is, is but little, consisting chiefly of one street, which for a good space lyeth open to the se, and on the back of it riseth an hill of such steepness, that they are forced to clymbe upp to their chappell by eighty steps of stone, from whence you have a fair prospect of the towne and haven lying under it; from one side you may see Weeke, the mother church of Waymouth, and Melcombe on the other side, which much surpasseth the other for conveniency of scite, for this standing on a flat, affordeth roome for building with a markett place, and convenient streets, and also yardes for their wares, by means whereof the merchants have chosen this for their habitation, which of late yeares is fairly new built; ther anciently was placed the wool staple, but king Henry VI. took it from them and gave it to Poole, when he granted to itt the priviledges of a haven.

"These townes now united, gaine well by traffique into Newfoundland, were they had eighty shippes and barkes, as also by a nearer cutt into France, opposite to them, whence they return laden with wines, cloths, and divers other useful commodities, with which they furnish the country."

Camden, gives the following account of Weymouth.

"A castle by Henry VII., which also defendeth the entrance into the haven of Weimouth, a little towne, this is upon the mouth of Wey, a small river, againste which on the other side of the banke, standeth Melcomb, surnamed Regis, that is King's Melcombe divided from the other only by the haven betwee-

"But the privelidges of the haven were awarded from them by sentence of parliament, howbeit afterwards recovered. Henry VI. granted unto Pool the privelidges of a haven, which he had taken from Melcombe, but (Poole) since Richard III. by the sloth and idlenesse of the townsmen, it is decaied.

"These stood both sometime proudlie upon their owne several privelidges and were in emulation one of the other, but now tho (God turne it to the good of both,) many, they are, by authoritie of parliament, incorporated into one bodie, conjoyned by late by a bridge, and growne very much greetier and goodlier in buildings, and by sea adventures than heretofore."

16th Edward III. 1340, Edward being desirous to claim the crown of France, made vigorous endeavours to procure a powerful army and fleet, and accordingly Weymouth with other other ports had orders to send their quota of ships to Portsmouth, and at the siege of Calais, Weymouth furnished that king with 20 ships and 264 mariners, according to the roll of that fleet in the manuscript in the Cottonian Library; but Hackluit, says it was not so many, there not being more than 15 ships and 263 mariners; but granting even this, that was a quota far beyond any port in this part of the kingdom, as Poole sent only 4 ships and 94 mariners, Lyme 4 ships and 62 mariners, Bristol 22 ships and 608 mariners, and London 25 ships and 662 mariners.* King Edward on his return from France, after been driven about at sea in rough weather, landed here, March 2nd, 1343, A. R. 17.

March 3rd, 1347, king Edward III. sent an order to the bailiffs of Waymouth, ordering them to seize the goods, chattels, jewels, and armour, &c. of Geoffrey, Earl of Harcautly, who had forsook Edward and joined the king of France.

1377, 1st Richard II. The king of France, Charles V. at that time equipped a large fleet, which had orders to infest the coast of England, as the English were wholly unprepared for them. The French were very successful in their havoc, especially on this coast, and landed in several places, burnt and destroyed great part of the towns and ports of Weymouth, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Hastings, and defeated some troops sent by the Prior of Lewis, who had assembled them for the purpose of arresting their ravages.

They were repulsed at Winchester, but landed in the Isle of Wight, where they plundered all the inhabitants, and after a

* The ships were to be supplied with every necessary for fifteen days, after setting sail, at the town's expense, the remainder of the time, the king paid them.

fruitless attempt to take Carisbrook Castle, which was bravely defended by Sir Hugh Tyrrell, Knt. retired to their ships with their booty. Upon account of these invasions, orders were issued out for arming the clergy.

The French have frequently taken opportunities to injure the town and port of Weymouth since that period, when Edward III. and Philip contended for the crown of France, the French landed with their allies, the Genoese and Spaniards, with a fleet of 50 gallies, and did severe injury to the town, their being so nearly opposite, had tended to facilitate the ravages of the French.

11th Edward IIII., April 14th, 1471, the consort of king Henry VI., queen Margaret of Anjou, landed here, on her return from France, for the purpose of endeavouring to restore the crown to the head of her husband, with her son prince Edward, and the grand prior of St. John.

20th Henry VII., Jan. 10th, 1505, Philip king of Castile accompanied by his queen, sailed from Middlebourg in Zealand, with eighty sail for Spain, but before they had got far out of the channel, a most violent hurricane arose, which lasted from the 15th to the 26th, dispersed their fleet, and the ship in which the Royal Family were, at last, but not without great difficulty, ran into Weymouth.

The king and queen were so very much fatigued with their voyage, that in opposition to the advice of their council, would land to refresh their spirits; they had merely intended to have remained a sufficient time to recover their health from the sickness under which they laboured, and then to have sailed as they wished, without Henry's being made acquainted with it, as Philip knew not how Henry stood affected towards Ferdinand, who claimed the crown of Castile, by right of his wife.

The inhabitants of Weymouth and the neighbourhood, were very much alarmed at such a foreign fleet, and immediately betook themselves to arms, and sent an information of the arrival of the strangers to Sir Thomas Trenchard, at Woolveton House, who, at the head of some troops, immediately marched to Weymouth, and was speedily followed by Sir John Carew, for the purpose of repelling the invaders if hostile.

As soon as the two knights were acquainted with the rank of the visitors, they immediately acquainted the king and queen that they could not return on board, till king Henry had been informed of their arrival, and Sir Thomas invited them to his mansion at Woolveton.

King Philip would have gladly embarked, as he was very well aware that this detention boded him no probable good;

but perceiving that he would not be allowed to depart, till the king's will was known, was obliged to consent with as much grace as possible, and accordingly was treated with every possible mark of respect, and an express was sent to London, notifying the event.

As soon as Henry had notice of his arrival, he sent Thomas Fitz Allen, earl of Arundel, with a superb train of great magnificence, having a troop of 300 horse, carrying torches, who received the king from Sir Thomas, and escorted him to London, where he was received by Henry with much friendship.

To this occurence the Russell family date the origin of their greatness: Sir Thomas Trenchard not being conversant with the Spanish language, invited his relative J. Russell Esq. of Berwick House, who had travelled on the continent, and had visited the court of Castile, to attend as interpreter, or as it was termed to act as a linguist.

King Philip was so much pleased with the courtly behaviour of Mr. Russell, that when the order arrived for the removal of the king to London, he was pleased to attach him to his train, and strongly recommended him to king Henry, as a person qualified to serve him in more than ordinary capacities. On the death of the king, he became a favourite with the young king, and was created duke of Bedford, 3rd Edward VI., during whose reign, and that of queen Mary's, he held many high, and honourable employments.

This incident of the king of Castile visiting this nation, was not without great benefit to England, as during this sojourn of Philip, a treaty of commerce was made between the two nations, highly advantageous to us.

From a M. S. in the King's Library and also in the Cottonian Library, it appears that in the roll of vessels ordered to attend the Lord High Admiral, is the following quota from Weymouth, in 1588, to guard the coasts and seek after the Invincible Armada: —

Name.	Tons.		Master.		Men.
The Galleon	100	—	Rd. Miller	—	50
The Catherine	60	—	*Ignotus*	—	30
The Heath Hen	60	—	*Idem*	—	30
The Golden Lion, or the Royal	120	—	*Idem*	—	60
The Sutton, a Bark	70	—	Hugh Preston	—	40
The Expedition	70	—	*Ignotus*	—	50

Clifford's company of 50 soldiers was also on board, this last, which, with the Sutton and Golden Lion, were vessels

which volunteered to assist the maiden queen, who had adopted vigorous efforts, to repel the invaders, wherever they had made their attempt to land; accordingly, the castles of Portland and Sandesfoot were fortified and put into a good state of defence in 1587, by Sir Edmund Uvedale and again in 1596.

Two of the Spanish Armada captured 1588, in the West Bay, were brought into Weymouth, (one of which was commanded by a Don,) where they long remained objects of the futile efforts of the Armada, though specially blessed with the pious orisons of the Roman Pontiff: the vessels sent by Weymouth, and two others, the Revenge of 60 tons, and the Jacob of 90 tons, by Lyme, were the only ones sent by the county.

1626. King Charles I. required a loan, or a benevolence from his subjects, and sent to all the ports to furnish ships, &c. Dorset was charged for one ship, of 500 tons burthen, and 200 charges, amounting to £5000; the sum that Weymouth furnished as its quota, amounted to £40.

THE SIEGE OF WEYMOUTH.

Weymouth during the civil wars, like other towns of importance, was frequently the scene of great contests between the parliamentary and royalist armies, and was held sometimes by one side, till a greater power dislodged them, though it appears that the general tone of the feelings of the inhabitants upon this distracting state of internal war, was a decided inclination to the royal cause.

It appears that in 1642, it was held by the parliament, as in Bury, the parliamentary treasurer's account for the County, is the following entry; —

1642.		£	s.	d.
Sept.	Soldiers and ammunition sent to Weymouth, ...			
Nov. 24.	Paid towards the fortification here, ..	50	0	0
Nov. 27.	Paid to the Maior Matthew Allen by order of the Lieutenant, for the repair of the fortifications, ...	50	0	0
		£100	0	0

Again in 1643, are the following entries ;—

1643.		£.	s.	d.
March 20.	Paid Captain John Arthur, by order of deputy Lieutenant, for disbursements to this garrison, per the King David, March, April, and May, ..	172	9	9
May 10.	Paid to Allan the Maior, by order of the deputy Lieutenant, ...	20	12	6
July 14.	Paid towards the fortifications, ...	5	0	0
		£198	2	3

The following is an account of the endeavours made by both parties to retain Weymouth in their possession, extracted from the official documents.—

August 1642. Sir Walter Erle, and Sir Thomas Trenchard possessed themselves of the ports of Weymouth, Portland, Lyme, Wareham, Poole, and Dorchester.

1643, July 23rd. After the earl of Carnarvon had taken Bristol, he marched into Dorset, with 2000 dragoons, and took possession of Weymouth, Melcombe, and Portland: many of the parliament party, who had retired hither, had so magnified the courage of the Cavaliers, that resisting them, began to be considered a matter impossible, and accordingly they agreed to surrender the town and forts, upon articles of indemnity, that they should not be plundered, nor suffer for any ill that they had done, they further agreed to give up all their arms, ordnance, ammunition &c.; prince Maurice came up shortly after with his cavalry, and joined the earl, and while the prince held the command, he suffered his troops, (taking advantage of the disaffected in the place,) to use such great license, and commit such ravages, and so ill observed the articles agreed on at the surrender of the town, that the earl of Carnarvon (being a man of honour in all his transactions,) so much resented it, that in indignation he quitted the command of the army, and returned to the king at the siege of Gloucester.

1643, August 3rd. A bark, sent by the parliament to succour their forces at Weymouth, laden with ammunition, value £123 4*s.*, was seized by prince Maurice, as it arrived the day after the prince had taken Weymouth; also the King David, belonging to Captain John Arthur, bound to London, with a hogshead of plate, received from Samuel White, value,

£612; also seized by Sir John Hill, arms and ammunition, which was paid for by the treasurer's value, £100 14*s.* 9*d.*

August 9th. The town and haven of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis, and the castle and Isle of Portland were reduced.

1643, November. 300 Irish soldiers under lord Inchiquin landed here to succour the king's forces.

1644. Colonel Ashburnham knowing that the town was thought of great importance for the trade of the country, and was hardly tenable, sent notice to Oxford, and was ordered to secure all the ordnance, ammunition, arms, and provision, and retire to Portland castle, as being, not only a defensible place, both by nature and by art, but having such a command of the haven of Weymouth, as would make it untenable to the rebels, and as for his men, he should put as many into the castle, as the importance and condition of the place required, and march with the rest to reinforce prince Maurice.

This, as prudently advised, was as punctually performed, for it was known that if the rebels had put into it a considerable garrison, they would not be enabled to keep the field, and if they put in none, or a weak garrison, it would easily be retaken.

In the mean time the factious in the town mutinied, and sent word to the earl of Essex, who was at Dorchester, who immediately came hither.

The earl had acquired some degree of popularity in the county, and having some inclination to possess himself of the town of Weymouth, the townsmen probably thought, that they would obtain more favourable conditions by choice, than they would by necessity.

1644, June 15th. The earl of Essex having with an army of 13,000 men, horse and foot, taken Dorchester, on his way to relieve Lyme, which with Plymouth were the only towns at that time in the west favourable to the parliament, ordered Sir William Balfour to repair to Weymouth, whither the earl followed him. Colonel Ashburnham the governor of the castle, and captain general of the county, had been intent upon other things, and not been as active as he ought to have been, to have finished the fortifications, which were not strong enough to defy an army, yet too strong to be delivered up at the approach of one, which the Colonel had done.

The governor pressed to have the whole examined before a council of war, where he produced a warrant, under the hand of prince Maurice, that the town being untenable, he should upon the advance of the earl of Essex, put a sufficient force into Portland castle, and retire thither, which he had done, and was by the council absolved from the charge of cowardice.

But he was thought to have left the town too soon, though he meant to have returned again after he had quitted Portland castle, and being still censured, he again at his own request, had a public hearing before the king, to whom, he so fully stated the matter of fact, and the impossibility of keeping the place, if an army attempted to storm it, together with the above warrant from the prince, and also stated how he disposed of the arms and ammunition, that he was in the opinion of the king, cleared from any crime or neglect.

June 15th. The Garrison surrendered the town, with all the arms, ammunition, ordnance, and ships; the commanders and officers to proceed to Exeter on horseback, with swords and pistols, the common soldiers with staves *only*.

What materially assisted in the reduction of Weymouth, was a fleet under the command of the Lord High Admiral, the earl of Warwick, who appeared off the town and threatened to bombard it — he was then sailing to relieve Lyme: the Lord High Admiral landed here and consulted with the earl of Essex on the expediency of assisting Lyme.

The amount of ammunition that fell into the hands of the parliament, under Sir William Balfour, was considerable, viz.,

100 pieces of ordnance great and small.
2000 muskets.
150 cases of pistols.
200 barrels of powder.
1000 swords.

The Lord High Admiral also took 60 ships of various sizes in the harbour, 180 barrels of powder, and 80 pieces of ordnance.

Both towns, all the forts, and the castle at Sandsfoot, were taken, which, altogether, must have been a great prize.

October. This Garrison, assisted by the country people, captured 100 horse of the queen's regiment.

November 20th. Paid Col. William Sydenham, Governor of Weymouth, by order of Lieutenant ———, £ 900.

1645. Sir Lewis Dyves had orders from the king, then at Sherborne, in his march out of Cornwall, to recover Weymouth.

February 9th. Sir Walter Hastings, Governor of Portland Castle, took the great fort here; two days after, Sir Lewis Dyves, Colonel General of Dorset, took the middle fort, surprised the town and possessed himself of the upper town and fort, the rebels retiring into the lower town of Melcombe, divided from the other, by an arm of the sea, and of no considerable strength: at this crisis, lord Goring was sent hither with 3000 horse, and 1500 foot, besides what he found in these parts, and also a park of artillery.

Yet it was retaken by that contemptible body of men, who had retreated into the lower town, and were looked upon as prisoners of war.

The cause of this unlooked-for occurrence, was never inquired into, but was imputed to Goring's natural want of vigilance and supineness.

This was done, in view of his army after he had been in the town, and the whole management lay with him.

February 24th. Intelligence came that Colonel Sydenham, who kept Melcombe by the benefit of a fair wind, had fired the ships in the Weymouth side, had burnt part of the town, and regained the Chapel fort, with 160 prisoners, 1 Major, 3 Captains, and 3 Lieutenants.

February 25th. The Chapel fort being regained, the king's forces resolved to attack the fort and the town of Melcombe in several places at once, in the night, and so secure it by a *coup de main:* but the evening before, a prisoner escaped into Melcombe, and gave the governor notice;—the royalists that night assaulted the line about Melcombe, in five or six different places, and the fort with great resolution; but the parliamentary forces being prepared for them, and also assisted by Captain Batten, with 100 seamen from the vessels, they were repulsed with great vigour in every place, and having lost 150 men, retired into Weymouth.

February 26th. Lord Goring and Sir Lewis Dyves, drew out of Weymouth, and marched to Dorchester, taking with them the plunder, and leaving the ordnance, captured at Weymouth behind them.

Another account says, that the townsmen of Melcombe let in the kings forces at their back doors, who came behind the besieged, and forced them to retreat, and also that the king's forces were strengthened by the townsmen of Melcombe. In this attack, Major Francis Sydenham was slain, and Captain Batten rallied the besieged, and forced the king's troops to retreat again; in this action, 250 were either slain or drowned, and when they drew off, they left their colours in their forts, with arms, ammunition, and provision.

The siege lasted eighteen days, the forces of the king, amounted to 4000 men, while those of the parliament mustered only 900, who had little hopes of relief, nor were they assisted by the townsmen, whom to the amount of 40, conspired to seize on the fort possessed by Sydenham, and by false keys to the prison doors, to let out the prisoners. Whitelock says, that many of them were seized and hung by martial law.

February 27th. A messenger from Melcombe informed the parliament, that the town expected Waller's approach,

which had been retarded by a meeting of his men, that a party of 80 horse sallied out, and routed near 300 of the enemy, took 60 horse, and at another time, 30 more. Cromwell was ordered into the west to join Waller.

1644, April 23rd. The governor of the town of Lyme (at that time besieged by prince Maurice) dispatched an express to Captain Sydenham, desiring him to give intelligence to Sir William Waller of the condition of Lyme, but Captain Sydenham's diligence and care for the town was such, that he hired a boat to send to Lyme, which cost £3, which when the town perceived the boat making towards them, presently despatched a sloop, and also a barge of the town, wherein were 15 prisoners for their better security, lest it had been a boat of Weymouth to have landed ammunition at Charmouth for the enemy, which when the boat saw, having struck her sails and applying herself to the oars, presently hoisted sails again, and made backwards to Portland Point with might and main, and returned with this answer "That we were besieged by sea and by land," supposing the bark and sloop to be Dunkirk Frigates.

April 25th. About five o'clock in the afternoon, the aforementioned ship, with the 15 prisoners, was either betrayed, or so negligently kept, that they became keepers of their keepers, and so hoisting sail, brandishing their swords in sign of victory, for Weymouth.

November 3rd. Sir Anthony Astly Cooper took Abbotsbury, which had been an ill neighbour to Weymouth.

1652, January 14th. General Blake, General at sea for the Commonwealth, reported to the Commonwealth, that the Weymouth Pink, Gabriel Sanders commander, 60 men, and 18 guns, was ready for the service of the state.

March 1st. Letters from Colonel Sydenham and Captain Batten, informed the parliament, that Goring had spent much time with 5000 horse and foot, before Melcombe, and the night before, endeavoured to destroy an entrenched work, that was between Melcombe and the sea, but was beaten off.

March 5th. An order of parliament passed, for £2000 to be paid to the officers, soldiers, and seamen, of Weymouth for their services.

March 8th. Intelligence came, that a ship of 26 guns with arms and ammunition from Rouen, entered the port, and was taken, the seamen conceiving that the port was in possession of the king's forces.

The seamen belonging to the Endeavour, of 12 guns, of Weymouth, laden with salt &c., cut her cables, and brought her into Weymouth harbour to Captain Batten, though not without the castle firing several shots at her.

March 16th. The losses these towns sustained, during the civil war, amounted to £20,000, as a certificate from the Justices, in the parliamentary roll, testifies.

1650. This town represented to the Commissioners for the monthly assessments, that it had been a garrison town and was much wasted by the wars, and was at a charge of £30 per month to maintain soldiers then in quarters, and two guards; yet, a six month's rate of £60,000 was on the kingdom, wherein they were charged in proportion, and being unable to pay it, they desired to be discharged from maintaining the soldiers of the garrison.

August 29th. The council of state took order for the better securing of Weymouth.

November 26th. A letter was received concerning the refractoriness of the magistrate and ministers of Weymouth, by which it appears, that their petitions were not complied with.

In a work published by Mrs. Ann Wyndham, entitled "Claustrum Regale Reseratum," appears the following account of Charles's concealment at Trent and his meditated endeavour to escape at Weymouth.

"The king after the battle at Worcester, in 1651, lay concealed at Trent, near Sherborne, from which place his friends frequently dispersed themselves over the coast, to procure a vessel to transport him; this was certainly a very difficult task, as the country was patrolled by numerous scouts from the army, as they were aware he was still in England, and were desirous of obtaining the immense reward offered for the capture of Charles Stewart. Colonel Wyndham, who secreted him, informed Sir John Strangeways, (*M. P. for Weymouth*, 15 *and* 16 *Car. I.*) of the wish his Majesty expressed, that he should interest himself from his local connection with Weymouth, to engage a vessel from that place to take him over, but Sir George informed the king, "that he knew not any one master of a ship, or so much as one mariner at Weymouth that he could trust; all that were formerly of his acquaintance there, being for their loyalty banished and gone beyond sea, and in Pool and Lime, he was a mere stranger, not having one confidant in either; but knowing his Majesty was in need of money, begged him to accept as a loan of benevolence, 100 broad pieces." All hopes of transportation this way being abandoned, the Colonel informed the king, that Captain Ellesden and his brother John of Lime, *(through the means of Colonel Bullen Rymes of Whaddon, Dorset, M. P.*

for Weymouth, 13 *Car. II.)* had conveyed over Sir John, afterwards Lord Berkley; these accordingly procured a man, who for £60 undertook to convey them over, but his wife, fearful of his endangering his neck, the night he had engaged to be ready, locked him in, and would not allow him to venture out. The king at last escaped at Charmouth, though not without the greatest risk of danger."

James Crouch, rector of Hinton Martell, was ejected from his living, in 1644, and was reduced to great distress, was twice imprisoned, once at Weymouth, and once at the county gaol; from Weymouth, he contrived to break from prison, and escaped to the king's army, and was afterwards supported by the charity of Mr. Freke, of North Wilts. In 1661, he was with some trouble restored to his living, and was considered the first sufferer, and the last restored in this county.

John Potter, rector of Great Fontmell, was imprisoned several months at Weymouth, for an invective sermon against the protector, said to have been preached in his own church, though it was attested by several creditable witnesses, that he was that very day in London, and consequently did not preach the sermon.

Owing to the powerful connection of its former lords, the earls of Clare, with the crown of England, Weymouth flourished greatly in a mercantile point of view, as every endeavour was made by its feudal lords, to extend the commerce, and increase the wealth of this port, and indeed, its contiguity to the French coast, considerably assisted the natural advantages of it: its merchants traded to Morlaix, Cherbourg, St. Malo, and other ports of France, for wine; to Spain, for oil and wool; to Norway, for firs and wood; and its connection with the Newfoundland trade, was the most extensive in the empire, till Henry VI. removed it to Poole, it formerly sent eighty vessels to Newfoundland, though in 1740 they only sent seventy.

The Lords of Clare procured from the king, the appointment of Weymouth as a staple port for French, Gasçon, and Anjou wine, which then was first imported into England, and was considered in the light of a cordial, and only sold by persons as an article of great favour, it then sold at 20*s.* per tun the best, and the second, at 13*s.* 4*d.**

* At that time the price of provisions were as follows;— £3 12*s.* of our present money for the best stalled ox, for other oxen, £2 8*s.*, a fat hog of two years old, 10*s.*, a fat wether unshorn, 5*s.*, if shorn, 3*s.* 6*d.*, a fat goose, 7½*d.*, a fat capon, 6*d.*, a fat hen, 3*d.*, two chickens, 3*d.*, four pigeons, 3*d*, two dozen of eggs, 3*d.*

In the Abbreviatio Rotulorum Originalium, appears the following entry on the subject, viz.;—

Anno 4to Edwardi II.

"Henr. de Lym et Joh. Shirleye Coll' in Portu Sutht. et in singlis locis in port. Cicestr. et Waymuth cum tota Insula Victa.

Henry de Lym and John Shirly, collectors in the Port of Southampton, and in each of the following places, in the ports of Chichester and Waymouth, with the whole of the Isle of Wight.

Again, the following entry occurs, evidently a fresh appointment.—

Anno 6to Edwardi II.

"Rex assignavit ad colligend: et recipiend: duos sol. de quolibet dolio vini, &c.

"Henrici de Thornhill, et Arnoldo Gillam, in portubus de Wareham et Waymuth.

The king appoints for collecting and receiving two shillings for every tun of wine &c.

Henry de Thornhill, and Arnold Gillam, in the ports of Wareham and Waymouth. *

The commerce of the town necessarily bringing various individuals to the place, the wants of the inhabitants increased in the same ratio to meet their convenience, and also to feed the craving appetite of the insatiable maw of the Roman Church, for Weymouth was at that time under the lordship of the convent of St. Swithin at Winchester; a grant or charter was obtained, most probably at the solicitation of Henry, the bishop of Winchester, from his uncle Henry III., for a market and fair, as in the Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum, or charter rolls, is the following entry;—

32do Henric III.

Priori Sti. Swithini Wintoni.

"Waymuth maner infra maner de Wyk.

"Mercat et feria."

Again, 35to Henric III.

Priori Sti. Swithini Wintoni.

"Waymouth maner infra maner de Wyk.

"Mercat et feria."

* This duty of two shillings, it appears had been imposed by king Edward I., over and above the old duty;— a solidus was before this period, a name of a piece of gold coin.

The first of these extracts evidently show, that a market and fair was granted to Weymouth, by the desire of the Prior of St. Swithin of Winchester, and the second is a regrant of the same, probably with an increase of privileges.

The market is still in existence, and is held on Friday, as the Tuesdays it appears by the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, was granted to Melcombe, 8th Edward II.

The fair no longer exists, but most probably was removed by Henry VI. to Poole, when he removed the Newfoundland trade there.

Hutchins observes, "that in his time, 1739, the inhabitants had a tradition, that one did formerly exist, called Putridge, which lasted a week, to which all sorts of merchandize from various parts of the continent were brought;" but the remembrance of this is now quite obliterated, neither can I procure any authentic documentary or oral testimony to corroborate it; probably it might refer to the market and fair, granted to Weymouth, at the solicitation of Lionel, duke of Clarence. 40th Edward III.

The market dues were let November 21st, 1828, for the ten months, for £225, and in 1827, for the year, £295.

It appears from Bond's chronology, that in 1607, there was a dreadful plague at Weymouth and Melcombe; 37 individuals who had expired under the ravages of this pestilential scourge, were buried in Radipole churchyard; and 6 were buried in Melcombe common: this was at the same time when it visited London, where it carried off a fourth part of its inhabitants.

The Jerseymen it appeared, very much annoyed this part of Dorset, with their vessels, plundering and pirating wherever they could. 17th October, 1651, Colonel John Heane, who then held the command at Weymouth and Sandsfoot garrisons, sailed from here to reduce that island.

In 1666. there was a brief granted for both towns; this I am inclined to believe, was to repair the damage and other injuries sustained during the civil wars.

Again, there appears another brief in 1695, but whether this was to repair the injuries occasioned by the attacks of the French, or by fire, I have not been enabled to ascertain.

1673, September, 13th Car. II. A lamentable fire nearly destroyed the town, as the houses were then, all thatched; the king who happened to be at Weymouth, granted a brief for collecting the sum of £3000, towards rebuilding some of the houses.

In a chamber belonging to the Old Rooms, is a beautiful carved mantle-piece of oak, with allegorical figures, and in

one part of an escutcheon, is the date 1618, this might have been the residence of Thomas Gyer Esq, Mayor for that year, and M. P. for Weymouth, 21st Jac. I., and 3rd and 15th Car. I. It already betokens the want of care, and a few more years will, if not prevented, probably assist in forming an Hecatomb to Vesta.

Till lately, there were several houses extant, which bore in their fronts practical proofs of the battering the town sustained during the siege, in the civil wars; several were perforated by the balls fired from St. Nicholas's Chapel, and even now, balls are occasionally found, in the repairing of old houses.

The great difficulty of correctly defining the exact limits of the corporate body, and the landed proprietor, have frequently occasioned altercations, each party claiming certain lands; in June, 1822, the corporation inclosed a piece of ground near the Watch-House, (which formerly was a fine umbrageous walk,) the next day the agent for the Johnstone family, ordered it to be pulled down,—this is very far from being a solitary instance.

Tuesday, November 23rd, 1824, the sun arose, and exhibited to the inhabitants, Weymouth nearly destroyed, by the tempestuous ravages of a raging insetting sea; vast rolling surges rushed furiously onwards,—and billows, gigantic in their rage, frowned horribly; which, with the terrific roar of the tempest,—the shrill yells of the sea birds,—the look of unutterable anguish,—the piteous moan of the ingulphed mariner,—the horrid crash of nature's warfare,—and death, in all its tremendous majesty,—combined to render a scene, at all times grand—now, sublimely awful.

> ———"An universal hubbub wild,
> Of stunning voices, and sounds all confused—
> Borne through the hollow dark, assault the ear
> With loudest vehemence."———

The towns of Weymouth and Melcombe suffered severely, the piers, the quays, wharfs, and the beautiful esplanade, were all swept away; boats swam where fair ones walked, and in all human probability, these towns would have been all destroyed, but gradually the sea retired; the yelling roar was stilled, and all nature was hushed;—the inhabitants willingly came forward with their mites, and the destruction was soon repaired.

The neighbouring villages suffered in a same ratio. Fleet church and village were destroyed; at Chiswell, 36 houses were demolished, 100 rendered uninhabitable, 100 families deprived of their all, and 25 persons drowned, and loss of

property amounted to £15,000; several vessels were wrecked in that vortex of destruction, the West Bay, and their crews numbered with the dead.

Weymouth itself consists chiefly of one long street, running through its centre, the rear of which still shews the numerous flights of steps for reaching the Catholic Chapel of St. Nicholas; there are several that branch off from this, but the appearance of the houses betoken them to be the abode of the poor and needy, though a few of them, from their spacious apartments and extensive premises, evince that they were chiefly adapted for commercial and mercantile conveniences, which has been proved in the early account of the town, to have been considerable; but the various concurrent circumstances, the devastation by fires, the French, its own internal discord, &c., proved very detrimental to the commerce of the town, of which a complete stagnation at one time ensued; its merchants were obliged to discontinue importing goods, as no purchasers could be found, and until the revival of the town under the novel name of a watering place, its inhabitants were merely a few fishermen and smugglers, but "nil desperandum," upon the visit of the royal family, and their natural followers, the rich and fashionable, the drooping hopes of its forlorn occupiers revived, houses on a different construction were erected, ship building was encouraged, a stimulus was given to trade, which once more returned to its old channel

The first public rooms for balls, assemblies, &c., were opened here, (though this from a more recent erection at Melcombe, is now called the Old Rooms,) and Mr. Plomer who then officiated as M. C. for Bristol, was elected for this place, which he kept till his decease; when Melcombe rose from a fishing hamlet, to its present height of pre-eminence, Weymouth slightly retrograded, but still conjointly participates in some of its advantages, its increase of population, the inclosing an arm of the harbour at Mac Saunder's Hole, the conversion of fields, (for the purpose of votes,) into small gardens, have all rendered it necessary to build on the summit of the hill, houses are starting up with nearly the same rapidity as those of "The Foresters" in every direction, whole rows of them are erected, and soon possess "a local habitation and a name;" and what will moreover tend to increase the respectability of the town, handsome villas have been erected in the suburbs.

Weymouth and Melcombe are generally speaking of a very healthy temperature, the number of individuals who exceed the age of man, (three score and ten,) are considerable, the health-inspiring breezes with which the neighbourhood abounds, the

absence of marsh miasmata, and the attention paid to the economy of the town, all tend to make a residence at it desirable.

Thus has the historical account of this ancient town of Wæye-Mu'ð—been deduced to the present period, during which lapse of ages, it has been in the possession of the goodly abbots and their fraternity of Milton and Winton, its shores—ꝥcoꝛe—its river,—ꝥðꝛým oꝛ þ Wæye—its saltpans,—ꝥealbeꝛn—and its wear,—þeꝛe—all provided food and sustenance for the gastronomists of those monasteries; it then became the property of the earls of Clare, the earls of March, the dukes of York; those powerful barons whose connection with the crown, frequently shook "the throne from its centre;" eventually it fell to the crown; and from them, it since has been ruled by individuals, "who nodded their will" to their dependant vassals, just as the court wished; it now is considered merely as a dependancy of Melcombe, which though of more modern origin, obliges this town to follow in its wake, though as a shadow of its former greatness, it still takes precedence of Melcombe, in all official papers.

The Manor.

THE MANOR of Weymouth is but of very limited dimensions consisting of, besides the ground on which the closely packed town stands, four or five small fields only, situated at the western extremity. There is abundant evidence to prove that the parish was of considerable larger extent than it is now, at present; in the survey of Doomesday Book, (vide page 8.) it is taxed for four hundred acres, which without doubt included a portion of that land, which is now considered as appertaining to the adjoining parish of Wyke Regis, more especially as both manors were frequently granted to, and were held by, the same individuals, and being moreover under the same ecclesiastical dominion, their several precincts were not kept with any degree of exactness.

Having deduced the antiquity of the town from the earliest annals extant, it will be necessary to refer to them in the historical part, and commence the manor, from the time when it was found in the possession of the church of Winton, incidental notices of which have been made.

It is rather curious that it appears to have been considered at one time as a dependancy of Wyke, (vide page 24.) and again as appertaining to Portland, (vide page 30.) In the early part of the tumultuous and chequered reign of Henry III., it evidently was held by the church of Winchester, as appears from former extracts from the Chartarum Rotulorum Calendarium or Charter Rolls, and again it appears to have been granted to the elect Bishop of Winchester, who was the king's nephew, viz. Henry de Blois, and brother to king Stephen, and legate for the Pope.

This is the entry referring to it, viz.;—

35to Henric III.

"A. Wynton Elect. Portelond maner, Wyk maner, juxta Portelond, Waymuth villa, Helewell terra."

The manors of Portland and of Wyke near Portland, the Vill of Waymouth, and lands at Hellwell, were granted to the elect Abbot or Bishop of Winchester.

From them it appears to have become the property of the opulent family of Clares, who were related to William I., and who were among his followers into England; they were an ambitious and powerful family, and eventually, one of their descendants ascended the throne of these realms, in the person of Edward IV.; they held vast possessions in this county, Essex, and also great baronial rights in Ireland.

It appears that the earls of Clare held some lands in the neighbourhood of Winchester, for 33rd Henry III., 1239, Rojer de Clare, and John de Warrena, earl of Surrey, were chief benefactors to the Cistercian Monastery of Letteley Abbey, (Netley Abbey.)

Roger de Clare granted several lands to the abbot and monks in 1242, which was added by another donation in 1252, by John de Warrena, the contiguity of Netley Abbey to Winchester, might have been an inducement to the Convent of St. Swithin,* to propose an exchange of lands with the Clare family, for in the Charter Rolls is the following entry:—

43tio Henric III.

"Ricus de Clare, comes Gloucest. et Hert. Portland cum memb. viz., Wyk, Waymuth, et Helewell.

That Richard, earl of Gloucester and Hertford, held Portland, with its members or dependancies, namely, Wyke, Waymouth, and Hellwell.

He also had licence to fortify the Isle, and embattle the castle of Portland, which an ancestor of his, Robert, earl of Gloucester, (who advocated the cause of Maud, his sister, in opposition to king Stephen,) had reduced, and was then fortified by the king's party in 1142, 8vo Stephen, "tunc in castel-

* The convent of St. Swithin was begun at Winchester by bishop Walkelyn, A. D. 1079, and finished 1093; it was opened with great solemnity on the feast day of St. Swithin, to whom it was dedicated; several munificent endowments were made to it, by successive monarchs. There are many old sayings concerning the operations and appearances of nature, which are founded on actual observations, and may be physically accounted for, but which being received as superstitious traditions, are totally disregarded by all but the most ignorant and credulous. The common observation of its raining for forty days after St. Swithin's day, may be accounted for in this way; he was bishop of Winchester, and died 868, and was buried by his own desire in the Churchyard, instead of the Chancel of the monastery, and when he was canonized, the monks not approving of this public way of burying Saints, determined upon removing the body, and the 15th of July was appointed for the ceremony, but it rained so violently on that day, and for forty days after, that the design was abandoned, and those days have since been called "The Forty Days of St. Swithin."

lata," this was considered in those times impregnable, the ruins of this castle still exist, and are called "Bow and Arrow, and Rufus Castle," he also reduced Lulworth Castle. And in the Rotuli Hundredorum, or Hundred Rolls, in answer to a commission of inquiry into certain liberties and rights, possessed by various towns, communities, lords, &c. is the following entry :—

"Juratores dicunt quod Comes Glocest. tenet wreccum marinum, assisam panis, et cerevisiis, in maneriis de Waymue, Wyk, Portlond, et Helewell, et returniarum breviarum nostri domini regis, in inquisitiones quo warranto.

"De ceteris articlis, nichil scint."

The commission of enquiry declare that the count or earl of Gloucester possessed the rights of wrecks of the sea, assize of bread and beer, in the manors of Waymouth, Wyke, Portland, and Hellwell, and the return of writs of our lord the king, in inquisitiones quo warranto.

*With respect to other matters, or articles, nothing can be found.**

It then descended to his son Gilbert, surnamed from the colour of his hair and complexion, Rufus, (whose ancestor of the same name, was one of the 25 conservators of the peace in the reign of king John, and one of those who compelled the king to grant the Magna Charta. He was also grand master of the ancient fraternity of free and accepted masons throughout England,) who married, first, Alicia, daughter of Guy earl of Angoulesme, niece of Henry III., who gave her as a marriage portion, 5000 marks. In consequence of her being visited with mental derangement, he solicited a divorce in 1285, but in respect of her illustrious origin, he bestowed on her the manor of Thaxted in Norfolk, as a gift.

Still fostering his ambition, he solicited the hand of Joan de Acres, daughter of Edward I., in order to obtain which, as he was bound by the Feudal laws, he surrendered up to the king, all his vast possessions in England and Wales, to do with it as the king liked, by a grant April 20th, 1290, 18th Edward I.

* Rents of assize, were fixed and determined rents, paid by tenants, in a set quantity of money or provisions.

Perquisites of court, were those profits that came to the lord of the manor by virtue of his Court Baron, above the yearly revenue, as fines &c.

View of frank pledge, means the office of Sheriff, or looking to the king's peace, and seeing that every freeman at 14 years of age, find surety for their fidelity to the king, and good behavior to his fellow subjects.

Assize of bread and beer, a power of assigning or adjusting the weight and measure of bread and beer.

among which are recited the Burg of Waymue, Portlond, Wareham, Wyk, Helewell, the manor of Cranborne, with its chase and hundred, with various other lands in Dorset, on his marriage with the object of his ambition, Joanna de Acres, second daughter to the king, 19th Edward I., they were all restored to him, which he entailed on her, and her children by him, which amounted to four, Gilbert, son and heir, Eleanor, Margaret, and Elizabeth. He died at Monmouth castle, December 7th, 1295, 24th Edward I., and was buried at Tewkesbury.

In the "Inquisitiones post mortem," or inquiries into the property of deceased persons, is the following:—

Anno 24to Edvardi I.

"Gilbertus de Clare Comes Glocest. et Hertford. Waymuth extent. terrar. Wyk maner extent. Portlond maner extent. cum multis aliis, in com. Dorset."

Gilbert de Clare earl of Gloucester and Hertford, held certain lands at Waymouth, the manors of Wyke and Portland, with many others, in the county of Dorset.

He possessed also the liberties of Weymouth, held by his father of the house of St. Swithin, by exchange, and were held by service unknown. He also held the rents of the king's assize, £14 per annum, perquisites of court, et applicationes navium, yearly value 40*s*. also the borough. He claimed view of frank pledge, assize of bread and beer, and return of writs. He also held at Wyke, 128 acres of land, 55 meadow, and common of pasture, £6 rent of assize, and pleas of court. (This is another convincing proof of the paucity of land pertaining to Wyke.)

Joan, his widow, held these possessions after his death, by virtue of the marriage settlement, as the following entry fully shows.

31mo Edvardi I.

"Joanna uxor Gilberti de Clare, comes Glocest. et Hertf. Portlond maner extent. Wyk maner extent. Waymuth burgus £13 18*s*. 8*d*. ob. reddit de burgens ibm."

Joanna widow of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Hertford and Gloucester, held the manors of Portland and Wyke, the borough of Waymouth, and that the burgesses pay a quit rent of £13 18*s*. 8*d*.

Joan who had been betrothed at first to the son of the Emperor Rodolphus, on the death of Gilbert, *by way of variety*, married his servant, Ralph de Monthermer; this act of hers having displeased her father, her lands were seized

into the kings hands, and her husband committed to prison; but on the mediation of the bishop of Durham, Ralph was pardoned his daring act, and as if to wash away the ignoble state of his origin, was created earl of Gloucester and Hertford, during the life of his wife, whom he survived, and died 18th Edward II; he had also a livery of her lands, which he held by service of 50 Knights' fees. Joan died, 1st Edward II., 1307.

Ralph of Monthermer was raised to the degree of grand master of the beautiful and sublime mysteries of free-masonry in all England, at the death of Gilbert De Care, 1280.

Gilbert the son and heir, had not possession of the lands, till his mother's death, and when he did obtain them, he was compelled to give satisfaction to the king, for the time he would be of age. He died, siezed of the borough of Weymouth, 200 acres of land in Portland, and £14 0*s.* 7½*d.* rents of assize, close of court, with aisaments of houses, and pleas, and perquisites of court, *by exchange of the house of St. Swithin.* He held also the king's rents of assize at Weymouth, £14 18*s.* 8*d.* perquisites of court, and 40*s.* applicationes navium, view of frank pledge assize, of bread and beer, and return of writs; at Wyke close of court, with aisaments of 120 houses, 63 acres of land, £6 rent of assize, and pleas of court, with numerous other baronial and manorial rights in the county.

He was slain at the battle of Bannockburn*, where he commanded the vanguard of the army, but his body was sent to king Edward at Berwick, without ransom. His sister married the celebrated Piers Gaveston.

In the Inquisitiones post mortem, there is the following:—

8vo Edvardi II.

"Gilbert de Clare, Portlond maner extent., Wyk maner extent., Waymuth burg, £14 18*s.* 8*d.* reddit, ob burgh ibm."

Gilbert de Clare held Portland manor, Wyke manor, and Weymouth Borough, and that the burgesses paid a quit rent of £14 8*s.* 8*d.*

* A short distance from the field of the battle of Bannockburn, is a plat of ground, which is still called, "the bloody field," where the English under the command of the earl of Gloucester, here made an effort towards stemming the career of the Scotch, but after a sanguinary and severe contest, was, at the head of his own military tenants, (probably some of them from this place, put "hors de combat.")

It appears that prior to the battle, Gilbert, was so confident of his own success, that he had sent to Bruce, a purse of gold, and a pair of spurs, leaving him to find out their use, but "the battle is not always to the strong," as the sequel showed.

And at Sutton Poyntz, one carucate of land and one knight's fee.

He left one son and three daughters, the heir dying a minor, the daughters became the co-heiresses, when the vast possessions of the family were divided, together with the earldom and honours of Gloucester.

Weymouth then fell to the share of Elizabeth, who married first, William, son and heir of Richard de Burgh, earl of Ulster; second, Theobald de Vernon; and thirdly, Roger D'Amory. She had only two children, Elizabeth, wife of John lord Bardolph, by her last husband, and by her first, Elizabeth, wife of Lionel, duke of Clarence. She died 34th Edward III. 1360, seized of the borough of Weymouth, Wareham, Portland, Wyke, and the other possessions in this county, mentioned in former inquisitions, during the life of her two last husbands, and also her widowhood; she retained the surname of her first, and stiled herself, Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare.

It is more than probable, that when her daughter married lord Bardolf, she might give some lands to her as a dowry, for their is an entry to the following effect.—

16mo Edvardi III.

"Drugo Bardolf, et Alicia ejus uxor, pro Abbat. et conventu de Hida, juxta Winton; Bardolf Pidele, Liscet, et Waymuth, cert. terr. remanent eidem Hugoni."

Drugo Bardolf and his wife Alice, gave to the abbot and convent of Hide, near Winchester, certain lands, at Weymouth, Lytchett, and Bardolf Piddle, belonging to the same Hugh.

The above lands are more specifically mentioned in another entry, where they are stated to be as follows.—

"At Waymouth, one carucate of land, and one messuage of Robert de Burgh, by service of 10*s*. per annum.

"At Piddle Trenthide, one messuage, one mill, and one carucate of land; and at Lytchett, one messuage, two carucates of land, and 60*s*. rent of the prior of Christchurch Twineham, by service of 20*s*. per annum."*

The Lady of Clare left as her heiress, Elizabeth, her daughter, by the earl of Ulster, who married Lionel of Antwerp, third son of Edward III., born at Antwerp 12th Edward III., and created duke of Clarence 42nd Edward III.; Weymouth, then, by virtue of the marriage, became his

* The convent of Hyde was a monastery of the Benedictine Order, was designed by Alfred, but founded by his son, Edward the elder, 963; was first erected near the cathedral of Winchester, but was translated by an edict of king Henry I., A. D. 1121, to Hyde without the walls, before which time it was called "Newen Mynstre."

property. He re-married Violante, daughter of Galeas, lord or duke of Milan, and died at Alba, (now Longa Villa,) the following year, 1386, but not without suspicion of being poisoned by the Aqua Tophana; he was buried at Pavia, but re-interred at Clare.

Lionel obtained great privileges for this town, as the following extract testifies, from the charter rolls.

40to Edvardi III.

"Lionel, D. Clar., Waymuth burgus, Mercat et Feria."

A market and fair is granted to the Borough of Weymouth, at the request of Lionel, duke of Clarence. (See page 25.)

In the "Inquisitiones post mortem," is the following entry:—

42do Edvardi III.

"Lionel, D. Clar., tenet Waymuth burgus, Portlond maner, Wyk maner, Wareham burgus, cum multis aliis."

Lionel, duke of Clarence, held the Boroughs of Waymouth and Wareham, the manors of Portland and Wyke, with many others.

From the powerful family of the Clares' the manor fell into another descendant of king William's followers, and became by marriage, the property of the Mortimers', whose patrimony already considerable, was greatly enhanced by the accession of wealth and influence.

Phillipa, daughter and sole heiress of Lionel, had livery of her patrimony, in which the Borough of Weymouth, and the other manors are mentioned: 43rd Edward III. She married Edmund de Mortimer, third earl of March, the same year, who died February, 1382, 5th Richard 2nd, seized of this manor, &c.

It then became the property of his son Roger, earl of March and Ulster, lord of Clare, Connaught, Wigmore, and Trim, who married Eleanor Holland; he was governor of Ireland, and declared by an act of parliament to be heir presumptive to the crown; he was slain in battle in Ireland, against some of the native kings, 1398.

This is the entry on his death:—

22do Ricardi II.

"Rogerus de Mortuo-Mare, Comes Marchiæ, tenet Waymuth burg, Portlond maner, Wyk maner, cum multis aliis."

Roger Mortimer, earl of March, held the Borough of Weymouth, the manors of Portland and Wyke, with many others.

His eldest son Edmund succeeded him, who married Ann of Stafford; he died 19th January, 1424, *sine prole*, at the castle of Trim, in Ireland, after a tedious imprisonment of twenty years, merely because he was too nearly allied to the throne, as heir to the house of York.

He died seized of the Burg of Waymouth, in capite by virtue of knights service, which service he ill performed, 20 marks rent, and view of frank pledge 1 messuage, 2 carucates, and 220 acres of land in Portland, and 20 marks rent there; 2 messuages, 1 carucate, and 240 acres of land in Holwell, juxta Upway, the manor of Wyke, and others.

His widow held the manor, as the subjoined evidently shews:—

11mo Henric V.

"Anna, uxor Edmund, Comes Marchiæ, tenet Waymuth burgus, Portlond maner, Wyk maner, etc.

Anna, wife of Edmund, Earl of March, held the Borough of Waymouth, Portland manor, Wyke manor, &c.

It then fell to the House of York, by Ann Mortimer, sole heiress and sister of the late earl of March, marrying Richard de Conysburgh, earl of Cambridge, Rutland, March, and Ulster, lord of Connaught, Wigmow, Trim, &c., who was beheaded with lord Scrope, of Marsham, and sir Thomas Grey, of Northumberland, for treason against Henry V., at Southampton, 1415.

Their son Richard Plantagenet, duke of York. succeeded them, who married Cecilia, daughter of Ralph Neville, earl of Westmorland, endeavouring to wrest the crown from his cousin, Henry VI., was slain at the battle of Wakefield, December 31st, 1460. He had by his wife, George, duke of Clarence, who was drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine, March 11th, 1478. Richard, duke of Gloucester, the celebrated crook back of Shakspeare, afterwards Richard III. and his heir Edward Mortimer, earl of March, and duke of York, afterwards Edward IV., to whom this manor descended, and thus became vested in the crown, by whom it was granted and re-granted to several persons, frequently serving *inter alia*, as pin money to the several queens of England.

11th Henry VI.

The king granted to Richard, duke of York, livery of Waymouth, and all the castles, manors, lands, &c. which Ann, late wife of Edmund, Comes Marchiæ, held in dower of the inheritance of the duke.

14th Henry VI.

Licence was granted to Richard, duke of York, to have the manors of Waymouth, Wyke, Portland, &c., &c.

1st Edward IV.

Cecilia, duchess of York, had a grant of this manor, *inter alia*, which was also confirmed by a grant of 1st Richard III.; she died May 31st, 1495, 10th Henry VII.

In the aid granted for making the Black Prince a knight, appears the following reference to Elwell:—

20mo Edvardi III.

"Hundr. de Culverdestre,—De Johannes Freyday, pro sexta parte unius parvi feodi in Halway, quod Ricardus Gouys quondam tent."

Hundred of Culliver Tree.—John Freday is rated for a sixth part of one fee in Elwell, which Richard Guy formerly held.

50th Henry III.

Robert de Bingham gives 5*s*. yearly rent in Wæne to the monastery at Abbotsbury, as appears by an inquisition of the abbot of Abbotsbury.

In an extract from the inquisition of lands, held in capite 24th Henry III. is found the following:—

"Prior Montis Acuti tenet in maneriis Wyk, Waymue, et Helway, dim virg terræ, de feodi Alodi de Ninehull, in puram elemosinam."

The Prior of Montacute held in the manors of Wyke, Waymouth, and Helway, half a virgate of land, of the fee of Alodus de Ninehull as a free gift.

Pope Eugenius by a bull, 1195, gives Wýk and the church of Fleote, with a chapel, its fisheries, and saltpans, to the Abbey of Sherborn, and in 18th Edward I., the abbot of Sherborn had a charter of free warren at Wæýe or Wýck.

These last extracts must evidently refer to some portions of land, and not the whole manor, which was held by quite different individuals, and were probably given by religious Catholics for the purpose of masses being said for the repose of their souls, or else were intended to be bestowed for charitable purposes, either to relieve the sick, or to redeem christian captives from the galleys of the Mahometans.*

18th Henry VI.

John Jordain, of Wolverton, Dorset, granted to John Wells Clerk, John Corneland, &c., all his lands *inter alia*, at Weymouth.

* The holy janitors of Heaven were often wont to grant plenary indulgences, for charitable foundations, and which for a specific number of ave marias, and pater nosters, secured the holders of them, (chiefly fishermen) from harm, ghostly and bodily, and "all synes forgotten, and offences done against fader and moder, swerynge neglyently made, &c."

3rd Edward VI.

John Williams, of Herringston, died seized of 54 acres of land, in Week and Waymouth, and 50 in Portland.

11th Elizabeth, 1568.

Robert Williams, his son, died seized of lands in Waymouth, Portland, and Krecketway, yearly value £16 8*s.*, of which 500 acres of land at Krecketway, near Broadway, were held by rent of £4 3*s.* 6*d.*! This is a very small sum for so many acres.

15th Elizabeth.

Thomas Scovile, whose family are frequently mentioned in records, in the time of the 2nd and 3rd Edwards, a William Scovile, 19th Edward II. was appointed to survey the castle and warren of Corfe, and one of whose descendants was commissary for Weymouth and Portland garrisons, in 1644, held some lands at Weymouth and Upway, but to what extent, the record does not state.

9th Henry VIII.

Thomas Thurnhill the king's receiver for the counties of Dorset and Somerset, in his accounts at Michaelmas, owns the receipts of £14 3*s.* 4*d.* of Robert Hawkins and Robert Samways, bailiffs of this town, "de exitu officii sui," and 18*s.* 4*d.* perquisites of court for the last year.

32nd Henry VIII. 1540.

This manor which had been granted to queen Jane before, was granted to another of his queens, Catherine Howard, for life.

17th Elizabeth.

Queen Elizabeth, in a patent, recites and confirms a charter of 17th Henry VIII. whereby he granted to queen Margaret of Scotland, his daughter, the manors of Waymouth, Week, Portland, and Elwell, that she and her tenants should enjoy those liberties; that no sheriff's officer, or other king's officer, should execute any office in the premises without the queen's licence, or distrain tenants, either resident or not resident; all writs, &c., to be executed by the queen's bailiffs, she and her tenants to be free from tolls and other customs throughout England, and no purveyor &c. of the king's household to take away any carriage or provisions without her licence; the queen to receive all fines and other profits by the hands of her bailiff.

Queen Elizabeth also exempts the manor from the power and jurisdiction of the Court of Admiralty.

13th Elizabeth.

Queen Elizabeth by a charter granted to the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe, grants to the mayor,

bailiffs, &c. of the aforesaid towns, all leets, lawdays, liberties, fairs, markets, lands, &c.; to enjoy all petty customs, profits, &c., as the said towns, or either of them, or any lord of them, before had lawfully enjoyed.

It would seem that the rent of assize, &c. had not been paid to the crown by the inhabitants previous to this, the mayor, &c. claiming them afterwards, and also enjoyed the whole of the emoluments as possessed by the earls of March, the lords of Clare, and their predecessors, lords of this manor, by virtue of this charter, but which it is quite evident was not the intention of the legislature to grant, for queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, 9th May, 1598, A. R. 40th, reciting the three last clauses of the former acts, shews that the inhabitants of Weymouth had long before the making of the before-mentioned act, and the mayor, &c., since have enjoyed to their proper use several rents of assize, amounting to £14 7*s.* 5*d.*, issuing out of lands &c., in Weymouth and Melcombe, and a new rent of 10*s.* out of a messuage therein, due to the crown, and the profits of the water and the port, 40*s.* per annum; paying yearly £16 8*s.* 3*d.*, to which rents it does not appear they had any title, but are saved by the said act, and might be seized into the king's hands.

The queen, because these towns are a port and frontier town, for the better maintenance of the bridge newly erected at the cost of the inhabitants, grants them, the mayor &c., the premises and all the water running there, (the same as granted by Athelstan,) and the ground usually covered with the same, and the fisheries and profits thereof, and all court leets, &c., houses, lands, &c., which they had to their proper use, paying yearly £16 8*s.* 3*d.*; she also grants them the port and the water, court leets, fairs, markets, customs, &c., as they have before lawfully used by any grant, prescription, or custom.

These muniments were afterwards confirmed by a charter granted 14th James I., and subsequently 43rd George III.

11th Jac. I.

These rents of assize, £16 18*s.* 2*d.* were granted to queen Ann, also £14 7*s.* 5*d.* out of messuages and rents here.

Soon after this, 2nd Carolus I. the rents of assize out of these vills, £16 8*s.* 2*d.* were granted on his marriage to queen Henrietta, for life, but alas, the civil wars which soon after laid waste and destroyed the towns, and drove the queen from the kingdom, made Weymouth any thing but a source of revenue; she died abroad in 1669.

It would be somewhat difficult to say at what time the manor ceased to be in the possession of one person, while the

duke of York was contending for the crown, he might be somewhat negligent about a few manors, the allotment of a large portion of the manor of Wyke Regis, which at the dissolution of the monasteries, was obtained by the family of Horsey's, who gave name to Melcombe Horsey, Dorset, the grants of certain lands &c. to the corporate body by queen Elizabeth, the sale of small parcels for building &c. as the necessities, and the increasing wants of the inhabitants, and the influence of wealth might require, have all conduced to effect this object, for a list of the present possessor of tenements and lands in fee in this manor, would be as extensive and interminable as a Welchman or Clansman's pedigree.

At the commencement of the last century, one portion of the freehold property was in the possession of the celebrated Bubb Doddington, another in the possession of John Olmius, and a third in Edward Tucker, (Marchant Adventrer) of Weymouth, each of whom were representatives in parliament, and sold the borough to the highest bidders attheir will; from these it past to the present Sir Frederick George Johnstone, Bart.

The Mayor of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis is the present Lord of the Manor *in gross*, a privilege which queen Elizabeth was enabled to grant, in consequence of the manor having been invested in the crown by one of its lords, Edward IV., as before stated.

The mayor in conjunction with the corporation and their officers, in full state assembled, holds his annual court leet, and view of frank pledge, at the old Town Hall, on the first Monday after old Michaelmas day, and claims suit and service from every male person, able to bear arms, resident on the manor, or in lieu of personal attendance, a fine of one penny a head is paid, which is the same fine which was claimed by the Abbey of Cerne, 8th Edward I. in the manor of Melcombe; this is collected by the sergeants at mace.

The rents of assize before mentioned, since the union of the two towns, include the fee farm rents, payable from Melcombe Regis. The crown probably in pursuance of the statutes 22nd and 23rd Car. II. must have disposed of them to Sir James Clobery, and about 1770, to his heirs, Mr. Drake, of Exeter, Mr. Davenport, alderman of that city, and Mr. Halwell; at which time, by the poverty of some of the householders, and falling down of some of the tenements, seldom above £12 or £14 were collected; they were subsequently in the possession of Gabriel Steward, Esq., of this place, who sold them to Samuel Weston, Esq. merchant of Melcombe Regis, who dying in 1817, they descended to his son, who now holds them, their present annual amount is barely £12.

The additional fee farm rents so called, but better known under the appellation of the land tax, consisting of 500 assessments, collected from the increased houses and tenements erected in both towns, were by act of Parliament, disposed of by public auction in 1814, they were purchased by Gabriel Tucker Steward Esq., commissioner of taxes, who sold them in 1818, to the trustees of the late Sir John Lowther Johnstone, Bart.; they are collected annually from each house, and amount to about £130 per annum.

The following is the public announcement of the sale. "Weymouth fee farm rents.—To be sold by private contract, 500 fee farm rents, arising out of lands and tenements within the borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis, each giving a right to vote for members of the borough. They will be sold separately, or else, in a number together. July 13th, 1817."

Mr. Steward demanded £40 for each fee farm rent, equal to 200 years purchase of their real value.

The following is a list of possessors of land, lords of manor, lords of ditto in gross, holders of rents of assize &c., life tenants of the manor, from the earliest to the present time.

A. D.	
920	King Athelstan
938	Milton Abbey
980	King Etheldred
988	Atsere
1040	Edward the Confessor
1042	St. Swithin's Winton
1080	Earl of Mortaign
1100	St. Swithin's Winton
1230	Richard Earl of Clare
1290	Gilbert Earl of Clare
1290	Edward the Third
1291	Gilbert Earl of Clare
1293	Joanna, his Widow
1294	Ralph de Mont Hermer
1296	Gilbert de Clare
1310	Elizabeth de Clare
1314	Earl of Ulster
1350	Elizabeth de Burgh the Lady of Clare
1360	Lionel duke of Clarence
1368	Phillipa de Clarence
1369	Edmond Mortimer

A. D.	
1382	Roger, Earl of March
1424	Edmund, Earl of March
1425	Anna, his Widow
1430	Anna Mortimer
1434	Richard, Duke of York
1450	Henry the Sixth
1460	Edward the Fourth
1460	Cecilia, Dutchess of York
1495	The Crown
1505	Queen Margaret
1517	The Crown
1520	Queen Jane
1540	Queen Catherine
1546	The Crown
1570	The Corporation in Gross
1614	Queen Anne, Rents of Assize
1627	Queen Henrietta
1669	The Crown
1670	Sir John Clobery

1715 Edward Tucker, the Fee	1796 G. T. Steward
1718 G. B. Doddington and John Olmius, the Fees	1802 Sir William Pulteney
1720 John Tucker,	1811 Sir J. L. Johnstone
1770 Messrs. Drake, Davenport, and Hallwell, the Fee	1811 Trustees
1780 Gabriel Steward	1817 Samuel Weston
	1820 The Trustees of Sir F. G. Johnstone,
	The Mayor in Gross.

In the feudal ages the king was always considered as the lord paramount of the soil, and from whom was derived the right of lords of the manor; it was no unusual act for the king to grant whole signiories to one individual, as affection or caprice dictated. Ecclesiastical establishments and religious foundations in those days of monkish ignorance, came in for a full share of the lands; the clerical and laical lords also gave in their turn parts and parcels to their minions, who considered it but quite regular to alienate or sell it when their extravagances and necessities required, and when by the influence of the lords, the vills became burghs, portions were erected into votes, and in the course of time thus accounts for there being so numerous a tribe of holders of lands, who each, are in themselves, lord of a manor.

The Borough.

WEYMOUTH first obtained the privilege of a borough, in the 12th Edward II., whose nephew Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, was lord of the manor, and one of whose sisters, king Edward had married to his minion, Piers Gaveston, and the other sister he married to another favourite, Hugh de le Spencer; this consequent connection of Weymouth with the crown, might possibly be the inducement of Edward's creating it a borough, though before this time it was stiled a burg, 18th Edward I., and 43rd Henry III. Yet it did not return any representative, till the 12th Edward II., when a parliament being called, it was expressly mentioned, "that from every burg, there should be sent two burgesses, the most discreet and sufficient who had the greatest skill in merchandizing."

Henry VIII. sent the following letter to the bailiffs of Weymouth, A. D. 1544, A. R. XXXV.

(By the king.)

"Henr. R.

"Trustie and well beloved, we greate you well. And whereas betweene us and the Emperor upon provocation of manyfolde injuries committed by the Frenche Kyng unto us both particularlie; And for his confederation wyth the Turke, against ye whole commonwealthe of Christendome. Yt ys agreede that eche of us aparte, in person, with his puissant Armie in several parties this soommer, shall invade the Realme of Fraunce; And beyng not yet furneyshed as to our honour appertayneth—

"We have appoynted you to send us the nombre of XV hable fotemen, well furneyshed for the warres as appertayneth, whereof III to bee archers, every oone furneyshed with a goode bowe in a cace, with XXIII goode arrows in a cace, a goode sworde, and a dagger, and the rest to be billmen, havyng besides theyre bill, a goode sworde, and a dagger, to be levyed of your owne servants and tenants.

"And that you put the saide nombre in such a redyness, furnished with coats and hosen of such colours as is appointed for the battel of our Armey.—

"As they faile not within oone houres warnyng to march forward to such place as shall be appoynted accordinglie.—

"Yeven under our Sygnete at our palace of Westmr., the Vth daie of Iune, the XXXV yere of our reigne—

"Henr. R."

It returns two members to parliament, which with the two returned by Melcombe, makes both towns as one borough enjoy a privilege allowed to no other place in the kingdom, except London.

The representatives are chosen by freeholders of Weymouth and Melcombe whether inhabitants or not; the inhabitants themselves have very little to do with the bona fide election, as from the numerous frauds and subterfuges resorted to, to put any individual whose purse strings are strong enough to bear the heavy pull on them upon the poll, persons who are not at all connected with the town, are made for a bounty averaging from 5*s.* to 30*s.*, to profess themselves as bona fide voters, under a *stipulation to return their deeds to those individuals who employed them.*

These electors have also votes for the county, and enjoy the same privilege as in London, to vote for all the four candidates, who, when chosen, are returned by the mayor in one indenture, under the title of "Burgesses of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis."

Oliver Cromwell sent the following prescript to Dennis Bond, whom he had appointed member for both towns.

"Forasmuch as upon the dissolution of the late parliament it became necessary that the peace, safety, and good government of this commonwealth should be provided for, and in order thereunto, divers persons fearing God, and of approved fidelitie and honestie, are by myself, with the advice of my council of officers, nominated to whom the great charge and truste of soe weightie affaire is to be committed, and having good assurance of your love to, and courage for God, and the interest of his cause, and of the good people of this commonwealth—

I, Oliver Cromwell,

captain general, and commander in chief of all the armies and forces raised, and to be raised, within this commonwealth; do hereby summon and requite you, Dennis Bond Esq., (being

one of the persons nominated,) personally to be, and appear at the Council Chamber, commonly known or called by the name of the Council Chamber at White Hall, within the city of Westminster, upon the 6th day of July, next ensuing the date hereof, then and there to take upon you the said truste, unto which you are hereby called and appointed to serve as a member for the borough and towne of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis, and hereof you are not to faile.—

"Given under our hand and seale, the 29th day of June, 1653.

"O. Cromwell."

There is a broad margin to the prescript, and Cromwell's seal, with his own arms fixed on the top of it.

The superscription to the cover is in these words—

For Dennis Bond, Esq.

Haste Poste Haste for the special service of the Commonwealth. } These O. Cromwell.

It appears that the borough of Weymouth and Melcombe long viewed each other with jealous eyes, constantly claiming the haven and its privileges between them, indeed it was a complete *dulce pulchriori* to them, and frequently were the complaints through their members to parliament upon the subject, till at last the government weary of their complaints, and having the power as being lords of the manor, determined to unite them into one borough, and thus to remove it from one, by giving it to both; accordingly a charter was prepared, and given them by the maiden queen, at the suggestion of the celebrated statesman, Cecil, which it was hoped would quiet both claimants.

13th Elizabeth, June 1, 1571.

The mayor, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalties of both towns, represented that for thirty-five years past great controversies had arisen between the inhabitants of both boroughs, concerning the right to the profits of the haven running between both, and several privileges in the same, the hearing of which had caused much trouble to the queen and her progenitors, and privy council, and a great decay and impoverishment to the town.

The lords of her majesty's privy council having required them, because it was hard to be understood in whom the rights was to agree, that the said boroughs might be made one

corporation; to prevent further disputes it was resolved, that the towns by act of parliament, be united in one borough, and incorporated by the only name of the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis, and to be reputed only one borough and town; that the mayor, aldermen, burgesses, and bailiffs, be empowered to purchase lands, &c., have a seal of office, and a common seal, elect a recorder, and that the mayor, bailiffs, and recorder, shall be justices of the peace in the said towns: that Bernard Maior, one of the burgesses, be the first mayor; Thomas Samways, and Hugh Randall, the first bailiffs; that six burgesses be chosen aldermen from time to time, by the mayor, &c., or the major part, and to be assistants to the mayor; that John Burley and five others, be the first aldermen; that Richard Pitt, Richard Buckler, William Pitt, &c., be the first twenty-four burgesses or common council-men, to assist the mayor by their advice and counsel.

That the mayor when out of office shall be an alderman for life; that twenty-four burgesses be chosen by the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty, and to have power to make bye laws, and the town to enjoy all leets, lawdays, liberties, fairs, markets, lands, &c., which the several towns had before they were united together, as in right of their several corporations they used by reason of any charter granted to them, or any lords of the same towns, or burgesses thereof.

The mayor, &c. to levy and enjoy to the use of the town all the petty customs, profits, &c. as the said town, or either of them, before their incorporation, or any lord of them lawfully enjoyed. (Vide the manor.)

She again in a farther grant, May 6, 1598, A. R. 40, recapitulates the above; she also appoints the mayor for the principal officer for her majesty, and a justice of the peace for the town and the liberties thereof, and use the same authority, and enjoy all the profits that the late mayor of Melcombe-Regis, and the late bailiff of Weymouth did before the same act.

King James also interests himself for the welfare of these towns, and accordingly re-grants them a fresh charter:—

14th Jac. I., 1st July, 1616.

The charter begins by reciting—

That whereas our towns and boroughs of Weymouth and Melcombe-Regis, in our county of Dorset, being great and famous ports and boroughs or towns, ancient and populous, and of great strength and force to withstand the enemies, as

well of us, as of our kingdom, and to defend the county there adjoining, and also occupying and exercising merchandizing, and having much business in and upon the seas, by reason of which ports, a great number of mariners and others, instructed and excercised in the art of navigation, are there continually employed and nourished and brought up, who are daily made, and are able and fit for all works and service for ships and the seas, and otherwise for the defence of our realm, and also of great customs, duties, and sums of money from thence, unto us continually do grow and arise, &c.

And that queen Elizabeth A. R. 13th, having united these boroughs, and that the mayor being at great expense in fortifying and defending these towns, and maintaining the bridge, lately built at the cost of the inhabitants, and defects and ambiguities having been found in the act of parliament,—constitutes the said borough and town to be a free borough and town, one body corporate and politic, by the name of the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty, of the borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and to be capable to purchase and possess lands in fee, to plead and be impleaded in any court, to have a common seal and alter it; the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs &c., to make laws and impose penalties and fines on offenders, to the use of the mayor &c.

John Roy to be the first mayor, Richard Pitt, John Morket, John Bond, John Bond jun., Matthew Pitt, Bernard Michell, &c., first aldermen; Henry Michell and Roger Fry, first bailiffs; Edward Roy, Thomas Pitt, John Gyer, Henry Walthan, Henry Michell, and nineteen others, the first principal burgesses, during life.

The mayor and corporate body, to have power to name yearly, on the day of St. Matthew the apostle, four burgesses or inhabitants, of which the mayor, aldermen, &c., have power to choose one to be mayor; the mayor &c. to choose on the same day, two of the burgesses or inhabitants to be bailiffs for one year; if any aldermen die, and at such death, there shall not be eight remaining, the remaining aldermen, bailiffs, and principal burgesses, to choose as many as are wanting of that number for aldermen, out of the burgesses or inhabitants.

Every mayor shall continue an alderman for life; if a bailiff, or any of the twentv four burgesses die, or be removed, the mayor &c, to choose others to fill up that number.

Hugh Pine, Esq. to be the first recorder during life, on his death, the mayor, aldermen. &c., shall choose another, during pleasure.

The present and future mayor, recorder, and bailiffs, to be justices of the peace in the borough and town, and limits of it, to keep a sessions house, a common clerk, two sergeants at

mace; to be appointed by the mayor, who shall carry silver or gilded maces, adorned with the king's arms; the mayor to be coroner and clerk of the market, the borough, and the precincts thereof, by land and by water, to be exempted from the jurisdiction of the admiral, vice admiral, or any of their officers.

The mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, &c., and freemen, shall not be impanelled or summoned to appear at assizes &c. No sheriff of the county, or bailiff, intermeddle in the border or the precincts thereof, (but in default of the mayor, bailiffs, or their officers,) and to keep a prison or a gaol; all fines, penalties, &c., to be for the use of the mayor and bailiffs; to whom are confined all manors, lands, commons, courts, fairs, markets, liberties, privileges, &c., which the bailiffs and burgesses of Weymouth, or the mayor, bailiffs, aldermen, and burgesses, and commonalty aforesaid, or any lords or possessors of the said towns, by whatever names or incorporations they have enjoyed by reason of any grants, charters &c., though forfeited, lost, not used, or ill used, paying yearly, fee farm rents, services, &c., as accustomed.

12th February, 1638. 14th Car. I.

A quo warranto was brought against the town, Sir John Bankes being attorney general, when the charter and act of union were pleaded, and all ancient customs and rights were confirmed, of all which, an exemplification under the seal of the exchequer, was among the town records.

14th George II.

The charter of king James became the cause of contention; first in 1740, when a question arising about the legality of choosing the mayor, occasioned its being carried into the courts of law.

A quo warranto had been brought against John Tucker the mayor, and issue being joined upon eight facts, they were all determined in his favour, by a special jury, at the assizes at Dorchester; but Mr. Tucker alledging a bye law of the corporation, whereby they had power to elect an alderman, mayor, the court of King's Bench decided against him, that though a mayor on quitting his office, became an alderman; they were not at liberty to choose an alderman, mayor; the charter requiring that the mayor should be chosen out of the burgesses. This decision received the confirmation of the house of lords, and in 1747, an explanatory charter passed the seals.

The number of aldermen is not to be less than eight; the mayor and other members of the corporation, are chosen promiscuously out of both towns.

The charter of king James was broken in 1803, by the corporation neglecting to keep up their number, but was renewed by his late majesty the year after, a correct copy of which is here inserted; at that time there was no corporation for nine months, the constables being the head of the town.

CHARTER of Incorporation, granted by George III. A. R. 44, A. D. 1804, May 25th, to the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset.

"GEORGE the THIRD by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these present Letters shall come greeting. WHEREAS by a certain Act made in the Parliament of our right well beloved predecessor the Lady Elizabeth, late Queen of England, holden at Westminster, in the county of Middlesex, the second day of April, in the thirteenth year of her reign, for the ending of divers great Controversies then depending between the then Inhabitants of the then several Boroughs and Towns of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, as well concerning the right, title, and interest, for and to the Profits of the Haven there running between the aforesaid Boroughs and Towns, as also for the use and quiet possession of divers liberties and privileges, within the same then Boroughs and Towns; and for divers other causes in the same Act mentioned; it was Enacted, and by authority of the same Parliament, established among other things, that from and after the last day of June, in the same Act mentioned, then next coming, the said two then Boroughs and Towns of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis aforesaid, and the Inhabitants of the same, by Authority of the same Act of Parliament, should be united and made one entire Body and Corporation, by the only name of the Mayor, Aldermen Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and so reputed, accepted, and taken, as one only Borough and Town, and not diverse; and that the said Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, should be by the said Act incorporated, and really to the full, created, erected, made, ordained, and constituted, one Body Corporate and Politic, by the name of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the said county of Dorset, and

that they by the same name should have a continual succession for ever, and by the same name of Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the aforesaid Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, should have, use, occupy, and enjoy, all such, and the like Leets, Lawdays, Liberties, Franchises, Pre-eminences, Privileges, Fairs, Markets, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, and all other Jurisdictions, which the said several Boroughs or Towns of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, before they were so united and incorporated together, as in the right of their several Corporations lawfully had, or used, or of right ought to have or use, by reason of any Grants or Charters before that time, made or granted by the said late Queen, or by any other the Noble Progenitors of the same late Queen, or by reason of any lawful use, prescription, continuance, or custom whatsoever, as by the same act amongst other things, more fully it doth appear. AND WHEREAS the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and their Predecessors in times past, have been greatly charged, and daily are charged, with the Expenses in fortifying and defending the same Borough or Town, being a Port or Frontier Town, on the confines of the sea, of the aforesaid county of Dorset, near the high sea, situate and lying, whose strength and security it is necessary that they, with a studious and diligent mind, should regard, fortify and support, and also in the maintenance and repairing of the Bridge, heretofore at the costs and charge of the Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, over and athwart the water of the Sea and Port thereof now erected and built, and in often necessary charges in the same Borough, Town, and Precincts of the same; AND WHEREAS certain defects, ambiguities, and inconveniences, having been found as well in divers Charters and Letters Patent theretofore granted, as in the aforesaid Act of Parliament for remedy thereof, and on the Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Borough and Town, our Predecessor, King James the First, by His Letters Patent, bearing date the first day of July, in the fourteenth year of his reign, as King of England, France, and Ireland, did, amongst other things ordain and direct, that from henceforth for ever there should be within the said Borough and Town, one of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the said Towns, who should be, and should be called Mayor, and also divers men of the said Borough and Town, who should be, and should be called Aldermen of the said Borough and Town, and also two other men of the said Borough and Town, who should be, and should be called Bailiffs of the said Borough

and Town, and also four-and-twenty other men, who should be, and should be called Chief and Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town; and our said Royal Predecessor, King James, did also thereby constitute and appoint the first Mayor, eleven Aldermen, two Bailiffs, and four-and-twenty Burgesses, by name, who should be the first in the said respective Offices, under the said Charter; and for their succession and filling up vacancies therein, respectively, as they should happen, our said Royal Predecessor, King James the First, was pleased to make certain ordinances and directions in the said Charter, containing, that is to say; As to the nomination and election of the Mayor,—that the Mayor and Aldermen of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or the major part of them from time to time, and at all times thereafter, might and should have the sole and full power and authority of electing and naming, and that they might and should elect and name yearly, and every year for ever, being met together and assembled on the feast day of Saint Matthew the Apostle, four of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the said Borough and Town, out of which, four so to be named and chosen, the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Principal Burgesses, and other Burgesses and Inhabitants of the said Borough and Town for the time being, (they being also on the same day, there met together and assembled for that purpose,) might and should have full power and authority, by the greater part of the voices of them being so met together to choose and make one to be Mayor of the said Borough and Town.

"And as to the election of Bailiffs, our said Royal Predecessor, King James the First, did further grant by the said Charter, that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the said Borough and Town for the time being, and at all times thereafter, might and should have the power and authority of choosing and naming, and that they might and should choose and name, being met together and assembled upon the said Feast or day of St. Matthew the Apostle, every year for ever, two of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the said Borough and Town, to be Bailiffs of the said Borough and Town.

"And as to the Election of Aldermen, that if it should happen that the Aldermen of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or any one, or any of them, should at any time for the future, die or be removed from their office, or depart, and at the time of the death, a motion, or departure of such Aldermen or Alderman, there should not be eight Aldermen surviving and remaining, that then and so often, it should and might be lawful for the Mayor, and the surviving and remaining Alder-

men, and also for the Bailiffs and Principal Burgesses, of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or the greater part of them, being met together for that purpose, to elect and choose so many as should be wanting of the said number of eight Aldermen, out of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the said Borough and Town, to be an Alderman or Aldermen of the said borough and Town, and that every person who should have executed the Office of Mayor of the said Borough and Town, should, immediately after the execution of that Office, be an Alderman of the said Borough and Town.

"And as to the Election of Principal Burgesses, that if it should happen to any of the aforesaid twenty four Principal Burgesses for the time being, to die, or be from that Office removed or depart, it might and should be lawful unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and other Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town for the time being, or the greater part of them, to assemble, and one other, or more others of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, in the place or places of him or them, the said Principal Burgesses so happening to die or be removed, to elect, name, and choose, to fill up the aforesaid number of twenty four Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid.

"AND WHEREAS in the year of our Lord, 1747, our late Royal Predecessor, King George the 2nd, upon Petition of the then Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Borough and Town, and for remedy of certain inconveniences complained of in that Petition, arising from the construction which had been put on certain parts of the said Letters Patent herein before recited, and for supply of defects in those Letters Patent, and for the explanation of the same, did, by his Letters Patent, bearing date the 19th day of August, in the year of our Lord, 1747, grant, ordain, and appoint, that the Aldermen for the time being, of the said Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the said County of Dorset, should and might be capable for ever thereafter, of being, and should and might be nominated for, and elected to, and hold the respective Offices of Mayor and Bailiffs of the said Borough and Town, both at the annual elections and on every vacancy that should happen by death, a motion, or other determination of such Offices in the manner prescribed by the said recited Letters Patent for the Election of a Mayor and Bailiffs of the said Borough and Town; and that the Capital and Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town, should, and might be capable of being, and should and might be nominated for, and elected to, and hold the several

and respective Offices of Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs of the said Borough and Town.

"And our said late Royal Predecessor, King George the 2nd, did further grant and ordain, that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Borough and Town, and their Successors, should and might have, hold, use, and enjoy for ever thereafter, all Liberties, Authorities, Jurisdictions, Franchises, and Privileges granted by the said recited Letters Patent of our said Royal Predecessor, King James the 1st, not altered in and by the said last mentioned Charter.

"AND WHEREAS in Hilary Term, in the year of our Lord, 1802, in our Court of King's Bench, an information in the nature of Quo Warranto was exhibited against Thomas Morris, Esq., to shew by what authority he claimed to be Mayor of the said Borough and Town, from the 21st day of September, in the 41st year of Our Reign, to the 21st day of September then next, and a like information was exhibited against Edward Tucker Steward, Esq., to shew by what authority he claimed to be Mayor of the said Borough and Town, from the 21 day of September, in the 42nd year of Our Reign, which Informations were granted by the said Court in consequence of certain Affidavits, which stated that at the time of the Election of the said Thomas Morris to be Mayor as aforesaid, the number of Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town, amounted to eight and no more; and that at the time of the Election of the said Edward Tucker Steward, to be Mayor, as aforesaid, the number of Principal Burgesses amounted to eight and no more.

"AND WHEREAS the said Defendants having by their respective pleas, pleaded to the said respective Informations, admitted that at the time of their respective Elections, eight Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town and no more existed.

"AND WHEREAS afterwards, and while the said proceedings were pending, the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Borough and Town, by their Petition reciting the said proceedings, humbly represented unto Us, that, inasmuch as the number of Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town was reduced to the number of eight, being less than a majority of twenty four Principal Burgesses appointed by the said Charter of King James, and thereby made a definite integral part of the said Corporation, the said Petitioners apprehended according to certain late determinations of our Court of King's Bench, that the said Corporation was, or was in great danger of being dissolved or

deprived of the legal means of continuing its Corporate existence, and of performing the various and important duties belonging to the said Corporation, and that such Corporation was essentially necessary for the regulation and government of the said Borough and Town, and the said Petitioners did therefore humbly pray that We would be graciously pleased to re-grant all such Liberties, Privileges, Immunities, Franchises, Possessions, and Rights, as they had theretofore had and enjoyed, and to restore by a new Charter, conformable to the said Charter of King James the 1st, explained, as the same was explained by the said Charter of King George the 2nd, their Corporate Capacities, Rights, and Powers, with such alterations or additions as to Us might seem meet.

"AND WHEREAS the Information herein before stated to have been filed in Our Court of King's Bench, against the said Thomas Morris, has been determined, and Judgment given against the said Thomas Morris.

"AND WHEREAS Judgment has also been given against the said Edward Tucker Steward, upon the said Information herein before stated to have been filed against him.

"We therefore considering the premises, and being willing that the Petitioners shall be relieved in their said complaints, and that all, and all manner of defects and inconveniences in the premises, shall be utterly taken away, and that from henceforth for ever, the same Borough and Town shall have and enjoy all and singular the Liberties, Immunities, Privileges, Rights, Franchises, Profits, and Commodities whatsoever, which ever did heretofore appertain or belong to the said Borough and Town, OF OUR SPECIAL GRACE, certain knowledge, and mere motion, HAVE WILLED, ordained, constituted, granted, restored, confirmed, and declared, and by these presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, DO WILL, ordain, constitute, grant, restore, confirm, and declare, that the said Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the aforesaid County of Dorset, from henceforth, may be, and shall be, a free Borough and Town of itself, and that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of that Borough and Town, and also all and singular Burgesses and Inhabitants of the same Borough and Town, by whatsoever name or names they or their Predecessors heretofore have been incorporated, and their Successors, from henceforth for ever, may be, and shall be, by force of these Presents, one Body Corporate and Politic, in matter, deed, and name, by name of Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, and them, by the name of

Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, one Body Corporate and Politic, in matter, deed, and name, really, and to the full, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, We do erect, make, ordain, constitute, create, restore, confirm, and declare by these Presents, and that by the same name they may have a perpetual succession, and that they, by the name of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, may be, and shall be, persons able, and in law capable, to have, purchase, receive, enjoy, and possess Lands, Tenements, Liberties, Franchises, Privileges, Jurisdictions, and other Hereditaments whatsoever, of whatsoever kind, nature, or species the same shall be, unto them and their Successors, in fee, in perpetuity, and also goods, and chattels, and other things whatsoever, of whatsoever kind, nature, or species, the same shall be, and also to give, grant, demise, and assign, Lands, Tenements, and other Hereditaments, Goods, and Chattels, and all and singular Deeds, and Things, to do and execute, by the name aforesaid, and that by the same name of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, they may be able, and may plead, and be impleaded; answer, and be answered, in any Courts of Pleas and Places, and before any Judges and Justices, and other persons and Officers of us, our Heirs and Successors, in all suits, plaints, pleas, causes, and matters of demand, real, personal, and mixed, as well spiritual, as temporal, of whatsoever kind, nature, or species, the same may be, in the same manner and form as others, our Liege People; persons, able, and in law capable, may be able, and may plead, and be impleaded; answer, and be answered; defend, and be defended; and have, purchase, receive, possess, give, grant and demise.

"And that the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and their Successors, may have for ever a common Seal, to serve for the causes and businesses of them and their Successors, whatsoever to be done, and that it may be lawful, and shall be lawful for them and their successors at their pleasure, from time to time, to break, change, and of new to make the said Seal, as shall seem most expedient unto them, and to be done and be.

"AND FURTHER we will and by these presents, for us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and to their Successors, that

from henceforth there may be, and shall be, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, one of the Burgesses, or Inhabitants of that Town, which shall be, and shall be named, Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid.

"And that also there may be, and shall be, divers men of the Borough and Town aforesaid, which may be, and shall be named Aldermen of the Borough and Town aforesaid.

"And that likewise there may be, and shall be two other men of the Borough and Town aforesaid, chosen in form hereafter, in these presents mentioned and which shall be, and shall be called Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid.

"And that there may be, and shall be within the Borough and Town aforesaid, twenty-four other men chosen in form, also hereafter in these presents mentioned, which may be, shall be, and shall be called, Chief and Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and shall be assistant and aidful unto the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs of the same Borough and Town, for the time being, in all causes, affairs, businesses, and matters, whatsoever, touching, or by any means concerning the Borough and Town aforesaid.

"AND FURTHER, We will, and by these presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal or Chief Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, we will to be one,) upon a public Summons to be made thereof, by the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, may have full power, faculty, and authority, in the Guildhall of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or in any other convenient place, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, from time to time to assemble, and there to make, constitute, ordain, and establish from time to time, reasonable Laws, Statutes, Constitutions, Decrees, and Ordinances, in writing, which unto them, or the greater part of them, (of whom the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, We will to be one;) shall seem to be good and wholesome, profitable and necessary, according to their sound discretion for the good government and governance of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and of all and singular Officers, Ministers, Artificers, and Residents, within the same Borough and Town, and for declaration in what manner and order the same Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Principal Burgesses, and all and singular Officers, Ministers, Artificers, Inhabitants and Residents,

within the said Borough and Town, in their Offices, Artifices, Functions, and Business, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, and Liberties and Precincts of the same for the time being, shall behave, bear, and use themselves, for the furthering the Public Good, Common Profit, and Good Government of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and victualling of the same, and other matters and causes whatsoever, touching, or by any means concerning, the Borough and Town aforesaid; and that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom We will the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, to be one,) so often as they shall make, ordain, or establish such Laws, Statutes, Decrees, Ordinances, and Constitutions, in form aforesaid, such, and the like reasonable Pains, Punishments, and Penalties, by Imprisonments of Body, or by Fine and Amerciaments, or by either of them, against and upon all Persons offending against such Laws, Statutes, Decrees, Ordinances, and Constitutions, or any of them, may impose and assess, as, and which unto the same Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom We will the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid always to be one,) shall seem to them necessary, fit, and requisite, to ordain, limit, and provide for the observation of the same Laws, Ordinances, and Constitutions, and the same Fines and Amerciaments, by the Serjeants of the Mace, or by their Officer of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, by distress of the Goods and Chattels of the Offenders in this behalf, or by any other lawful means, they may levy, perceive, and obtain; and the same so levied and perceived, may have and retain to the use of the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, without any impediment of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, or of any of our Officers or Ministers whatsoever, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, without any account or other things, therefore, unto Us, our Heirs, or Successors, or by any means to be yielded, paid, or done, all and singular which Laws, Statutes, Decrees, and Constitutions, so as aforesaid to be made, We will to be observed, under the Pains in the same to be contained, so notwithstanding, that such Laws, Statutes, Ordinances, Institutions, Constitutions, and Amerciaments, be reasonable, and be not repugnant, nor contrary, unto the Laws, Statutes, Customs, or Rights, of this Realm of England.

"And for the better execution of this Our Will and Grant, in this behalf, We have assigned, named, created, constituted, and made, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, We do name, assign, create, constitute, and make, our well-beloved Samuel Weston, Esquire, to be the first and modern Mayor, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, willing that the same Samuel Weston, in the Office of the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, unto the Feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle, which shall be in the year of our Lord, 1804, and from henceforth until one other of the Burgesses or Inhabitants, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, unto that Office, in due manner, shall be chosen, perfected, and sworn, according to the Ordinance and Provision hereafter in these Presents expressed and declared, if the same Samuel Weston so long shall live.

"We have also assigned, named, created, constituted, and made, and by these Presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, We do assign, nominate, create, constitute, and make, our well beloved William Weston, John Crouch, Samuel Weston, John Herbert Brown, John Arbuthnot, Gabriel Tucker Steward, Richard Tucker Steward, Sir William Pulteney, Baronet, Thomas Morris, and Edward Tucker Steward, to be the first and modern Aldermen, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to continue in that Office during their natural lives, unless in the mean time, for their ill Government, or for some reasonable cause, by the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them (of whom we will the Mayor of the said Borough and Town, for the time being, to be one;) shall be amoved, or some, or one of them shall be amoved.

"We have also assigned, named, created, constituted, and made and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, We do assign, nominate, create, constitute, and make, our well-beloved William Weston and James Bower, to be first and modern Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to continue in the same Office, unto the aforesaid Feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle, next following after the date of these Presents, and from thenceforth, until two other of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, unto that Office, in due manner, shall be chosen, and sworn, according to the Ordinance and Provision hereunder in these Presents expressed and declared, if the same William Weston and James Bower, so long shall live.

"We have also assigned, named, created, constituted, and made, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Suc-

cessors, We do assign, name, create, constitute, and make, our well-beloved Thomas Martin, Joseph Langrish, John Brett, Thomas Tizard, John Horsford, John Martin, Peter Templeman, William Schollar, James Bower, John Mc Key, Isaac Davies, Samuel Weston, Robert Grey, Anthony Hancock, Benjamin Barlow, Richard Oakley, Robert Saxton, James Richards the younger, Nicholas Marder, James Gear, Abraham Flew, Michael Jerrard, and William Ayles, to be twenty three of the first and modern twenty four Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to continue in that Office during their natural lives, unless in the mean time, for their ill Government, or for some other reasonable cause, by the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom We will the Mayor of the said Borough and Town, for the time being, to be one;) they shall be, or some, or one of them shall be amoved.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Mayor and Aldermen of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom We will the Mayor for the time being to be one,) may have, and shall have, full power and authority, to choose and name on the feast day of Saint Matthew the Apostle, in every year, in the Guildhall of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or in some other convenient place, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, being congregated and assembled together, four of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, whether the same, or any of them, be, or have been, Aldermen, Bailiffs, or Principal Burgesses, or not; out of which four, so to be named and chosen; the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Principal Burgesses, and other Burgesses, and Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, (they being also for that purpose, there, upon the same day, congregated and assembled together,) or the greater part of them as shall be so congregated, may have, and shall have, full power and authority, by the greater part of the voices so assembled together, to choose and make one to be Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid; and after that he shall be so elected and chosen, before that he may be admitted to execute that office, he shall take a corporal oath before the last Mayor his Predecessor, or before the Recorder of the same Borough and Town, for the time being, in the presence of all

the Aldermen, and Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, (for the time being, which then shall be present,) to execute the office of Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, rightly, well, and faithfully, in all things, and by all things, touching that office; and that he which shall be so elected and chosen, after such oath so taken and accepted, may execute the office of Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for one whole year, and from thenceforth, until one other unto that office, in due manner shall be elected and sworn, according to the ordinance and appointment in these Presents expressed and declared, unto which last-mentioned Mayor and Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and unto either of them, We do give and grant, full power and authority by these Presents, to give and administer a reasonable oath unto the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, so from time to time, to be named and chosen, well and faithfully to execute the office of the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, without any other warrant or commission, from Us, our Heirs and Successors, in that behalf, to be procured or obtained.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and their Successors, that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom We will, the Mayor for the time being to be one,) from time to time, and at all times, for ever hereafter, may have, and shall have power and authority to choose and name on the Feast day of Saint Matthew the Apostle, in every year, in the Guildhall of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or in some other convenient place within the Borough and Town aforesaid, being congregated and assembled together; two of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, whether the same, or either of them, be, or have been, Aldermen or Principal Burgesses of the same, or not, to be Bailiffs of the same Borough and Town. And that they so named and chosen, before they may be admitted to execute that office, shall respectively take their corporal oaths, before the Mayor, and other of the Aldermen, and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, which then shall be present, rightly, well, and faithfully, to execute that office, in all things, and by all things, touching that office, and that after their oaths, so taken and accepted, they may execute the office of Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for one whole year, then next following, and

from thenceforth, until two other men to that office, in due manner shall be elected, perfected, and sworn, according to the ordinance in these Presents expressed and declared; and that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, may have full power, and authority, to give and administer such reasonable oaths unto the Bailiffs, so to be named and chosen, well, and faithfully to execute that office, without any other warrant in that behalf to be procured.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that if it should happen that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, at any time hereafter, within one year after he shall be elected, and perfected, sworn, do die, or from that office be amoved, (which Mayor not behaving himself well in that office, shall be amovable at the pleasure of the Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them,) that then, and so often, it may and shall be lawful, for the same Aldermen of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the being, in such case as aforesaid, from time to time, and at all times hereafter for ever, or the greater part of them, in the Guildhall, in the Borough and Town aforesaid, or in some other convenient place, thereunto congregated and assembled, upon Public Summons to be made thereof, by two of the Aldermen of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, to choose and name, four of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, whether the same, or any of them be, or have been, Aldermen, Bailiffs, or Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town, or not, of which four so to be named and chosen, the Aldermen Bailiffs, Principal Burgesses, and other Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the major part of them, (they being also for that purpose there, upon Public Summons so to be made as aforesaid, on the same day congregated and assembled together,) may have and shall have, full power and authority to choose and make one to be Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid; and that he so elected unto the office of Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, may have, and exercise that office during the residue of the same year, and from thenceforth, until one other according to the ordinance above in these Presents declared, unto that office, in due manner shall be elected, perfected, and sworn, his corporal oath being first taken and accepted, before so many of the Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses,

of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, which then present, well and faithfully to execute that office, and so, as often as the case shall so happen. And that it shall, and may be lawful, the case so happening, for any two or more of the Aldermen of the Borough and Town aforesaid, in the presences of such Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, as then shall be present, a reasonable oath, unto the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, so be chosen and named, from time to time, for the true execution of his office, to give and administer, with any other commission or warrant from Us, our Heirs and Successors, in this behalf to be procured or obtained.

"And if it shall happen that the Aldermen of the Borongh and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or any of them, at any time hereafter, do die, or from that Office be amoved or depart, which Aldermen, and every or any of them, for their ill government, or for any other reasonable cause, We will to be amoveable, by the Mayor and the rest of the Aldermen, and the Bailiffs and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, and at the time of the death, amoving, or departing or departure of such Alderman or Aldermen, there shall not be eight Aldermen surviving and remaining, that then and so often it may be, and shall be, lawful for the Mayor and Aldermen surviving and remaining, and also for the Bailiffs and Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, so many as they shall want of the aforesaid number of eight Aldermen, out of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, whether the same have been theretofore Bailiffs, or be, or have been Principal Burgesses, of the said Borough and Town, or not, for an Alderman, or for Aldermen, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to choose and elect, and that he or they so elected and chosen into the Office of Alderman or Aldermen of the Borough and Town aforesaid, (a Corporal Oath being before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, by him or them taken, well and faithfully to execute that Office in all things touching the same,) may have and exercise the said Office during his or their natural life or lives, unless in the mean time for some reasonable cause a ccording to the true intent of these Presents, he or they shall be amoved, and so often as the case shall so happen unto which Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, the case so happening, We give and grant full power and authority by these Presents, reasonable Oaths, unto such Aldermen or Alderman, from time to time,

to be named and chosen, to give and administer for the true execution of that Office, without any further warrant in this behalf to be procured.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that every person which at any time hereafter, shall exercise the Office of the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, if for his ill government he shall not have been amoved from the same, immediately after the execution of the said Office, shall be named, and may and shall be an Alderman of the same Borough and Town, to continue in that Office of an Alderman of the same Borough and Town, during his natural life, if he shall so long in the same well behave himself.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that whenever it shall happen that the Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or either of them, at any time within one year after he or they unto the Office of Bailiff or Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, as is aforesaid, shall be elected, perfected, and sworn, do die, or from that Office be amoved, (which Bailiff, and either of them, not behaving himself well, we will to be amoveable, at the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the same Borough and Town, or the greater part of them,) that then and so often it shall be lawful, and may be lawful unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs and Principal Burgesses, and other Inhabitants, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, on such summons as aforesaid, one other, or two others of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, whether they or either of them, are, or have been Aldermen or Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town or not, for Bailiff or Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to name, elect, and choose, and that he or they so elected and chosen for Bailiff or Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, may have and exercise that Office, during the residue of the same year, first taking a Corporal Oath before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being,) well and faithfully to execute that Office in all things, and by all things, and so often as the case shall so happen, unto which Mayor for the time being, the case so happening, We do give and grant full power to give a

reasonable Oath unto such Bailiff or Bailiffs, so to be named and chosen, faithfully to execute the Office of Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, without any further warrant in that behalf to be procured.

"And that if it shall happen to any of the aforesaid twenty-four Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, at any time hereafter, do die, or be from that office amoved, or depart, (which Principal Burgesses, and every, or any of them in that office, not well behaving himself, or for any other reasonable cause, We will to be amovable by the Mayor, Aldermen Bailiffs, and other Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or the greater part of them of whom We will, the said Mayor, of the said Borough and Town for the time being, to be one,) that then, and so often, it may be, and shall be lawful, unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and other Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, assembled on such summons, as aforesaid, in the Guildhall of the Borough and town aforesaid, or such other convenient place as aforesaid, (of whom We will the Mayor of the said Borough and Town, for the time being, to be one,) one or more of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, in the place or places of him or them, the said Principal Burgesses, so happening to die, or to be amoved, to elect, name, and choose, to fill up the aforesaid number of twenty-four Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and that he or they, so as is aforesaid, unto the Office of Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, being named and chosen, (a Corporal Oath before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, well and faithfully to execute that Office, being first taken and accepted,) may have and exercise that Office during their natural lives, unless in the mean time, he, or they, shall be amoved, according to the ordinance above, in these Presents declared, and so, as often as the case shall so happen, unto which the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, We do give full power by these Presents, to administer a reasonable Oath unto such Chief Burgesses, so to be named and chosen, for the faithful execution of the Office of Chief Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, without any other warrant in this behalf to be procured, from Us, our Heirs, or Succesors.

"We will also, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, or Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the aforesaid Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, and unto their

Successors, that they and their Successors, from henceforth for ever, may have, and shall have, within the same Borough and Town, one discreet man, learned in the Laws of England, which may be, and shall be named Recorder, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and for the better execution of our will in this behalf, We have assigned, named, constituted, and made, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do assign, name, constitute, and make, our well-beloved Giles Templeman, Esquire, Recorder, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to be Recorder of the same Borough and Town, to continue in the same Office during his natural life.

"We will also, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant, that from time to time, and at all times, after the death of the aforesaid Giles Templeman, it may and shall be lawful unto the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, on such summons as aforesaid, (of whom We will the Mayor of the said Borough and Town, for the time being, to be one,) one other discreet and fit man, learned in the Laws of England, to be Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to elect and choose, to continue in the same Office during the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, a corporal Oath being first taken and accepted, before the Mayor of the same Borough and Town, for the time being, well and faithfully to execute the Office of Recorder, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, in all things, and by all things, and that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, shall have full power, by virtue of these Presents, to give and administer unto such Recorder, so to be chosen, a reasonable Oath, for the true and faithful execution of that Office, without any other warrant or commission by any means hereafter, in that behalf to be procured or obtained, and so as often as the case shall happen.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the aforesaid Samuel Weston, now Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, during the time wherein he shall exercise the Office of Mayor of the same Borough and Town, and every other Mayor of the same Borough and Town hereafter, for the time being, and also the aforesaid Giles Templeman, now Recorder of the Borough and Town, during the time wherein he shall exercise the Office of Recorder, and every other Recorder of the same Borough and Town hereafter, for the

time being, and the aforesaid William Weston and James Bower, now Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, during the time wherein they shall exercise the Office of Bailiffs of the same Borough and Town, and every other Bailiff of the same Borough and Town hereafter, for the time being, and from henceforth for ever, may be, and shall be, Justices, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, and every of them, may be, and shall be, a Justice, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to conserve and keep the Peace, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, and Limits and Precincts of the same, and to keep, and cause to be kept, all Ordinances and Statutes, for the good of our Peace, and the Government of the People, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, in all their Articles, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, according to the force, form, and effect of the same Ordinances and Statutes, and to chastise and punish all Offenders, contrary to the form of these Ordinances and Statutes, or any of them, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, as it ought to be done, according to the form of these Ordinances and Statutes, and that he, the said Samuel Weston, now Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, during the time wherein he shall exercise the Office of Mayor, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and the aforesaid Giles Templeman, now being Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, during the time wherein he shall be Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and the Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and the aforesaid William Weston and James Bower, now Bailiffs of the same Borough and Town, during the time wherein they shall exercise that Office, and the Bailiffs of the same Borough and Town, for the time being, or any two or more of them, (of whom We will the Mayor or Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, to be one,) be Justices, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to enquire by the Oath of good and lawful men, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, by whom the truth of the matter shall be the better known of all; and all manner of Murders, Felonies, Trespasses, Poisonings, Forestallings, Regratings, Ingrossings, and Extortions, whatsoever, and of all and singular other Misdemeanors and Offences, of which Justices of the Peace, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, lawfully may, or ought to enquire, by whomsoever or howsoever heretofore done or committed, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties or Precincts of the same, or which shall happen there, hereafter to be done, committed, or attempted,

and of all those which lie in wait, or hereafter shall presume to lie in wait, to maim or kill the People, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors.

"And also of Innkeepers and Publicans, and all and singular other persons, which have offended or attempted, or shall presume to offend or attempt, in the abuse of Weight and Measure, or in the selling of Victuals, contrary to the form of the Ordinances and Statutes, or any of them, thereof made, for the common profit of our Realm, and of the People of the same, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts thereof.

"And also of all Constables, Keepers of Gaols, and other Officers, which in the execution of their Office about the Premises, or any of them, have unduly behaved themselves, or hereafter shall presume unduly to behave themselves, or have been, or hereafter shall happen to be slack, remiss, or negligent, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties or Precincts of the same; and of all and singular articles and circumstances, and other things whatsoever and howsoever, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties or Precincts of the same, done or committed, or which at any time hereafter shall happen there to be done, committed, or attempted, by any means howsoever, concerning the Premises and Indictments whatsoever, heretofore, before the Mayor, Recorder, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or any of them, or which before Thomas Morris or Edward Tucker Steward, during the times wherein they respectively exercised the Office of Mayor, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and before the Mayor of the same Borough and Town, for the time being, and before Giles Templeman aforesaid, and the Recorder of the Borough and Town, for the time being, and before the aforesaid William Weston and James Bower, and the Bailiffs of the same Borough and Town, for the time being, or any two or more of them, (of whom We will the Mayor, or Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to be one,) hereafter to be taken, to inspect and process thereupon, against all and singular Persons so indicted, or which hereafter shall happen so to be indicted, to make and continue until they be taken, shall yield themselves, or be outlawed, and to chastise and punish the same Offenders, and every of them, for their offences, by Fines, Redemptions, Amerciaments, Forfeitures, and other means as have been accustomed to be done, according to the Laws and Customs of our Realm, or according to the Form of the Ordinances or Statutes aforesaid, so, notwithstanding, that to the determination of any Treason, Felony, or other offence whatsoever, touching the loss of Life

or Members, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, without the Special License of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, they may not proceed; and that the Justices of Peace, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, of the aforesaid County of Dorset, or any of them, may not by any means intermeddle, to do, exercise, or execute any thing, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties or Precincts thereof, which, unto the Office of Justice of our Peace, by any means do appertain or belong.

"And We will that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, shall take a Corporal Oath, well and faithfully to execute the Office of Justice of the Peace, and the Oaths provided in that behalf by the Laws of England, required to be taken by Justices of the Peace, before the last Mayor, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, his predecessor being then living, and that the last predecessor of every Mayor, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, after he shall depart from the Office of the Mayor, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, by Virtue of these Letters Patent, may have, and shall have, full power and authority to give and administer such Oath as is aforesaid, unto the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and his Successors, without any other warrant or commission, from Us, our Heirs, or Successors, to be obtained or gotten; and that the Recorder and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and every of them, shall take a Corporal Oath, well and faithfully to execute the Office of Justice of the Peace, and the Oaths provided in that behalf, by the Laws and Statutes of this our Realm of England, required to be taken by Justices of the Peace, before the Mayor of the Borough aud Town aforesaid, for the time being, (his Oath before his Predecessor, the last Mayor of the same Borough, being first taken,) may have, and shall have, power, faculty, and authority, to give and administer such Oath as is aforesaid, unto such Justice of the Peace, or unto any of them, by virtue of these Presents, without any other warrant or commission, from Us, our Heirs, or Successors, to be gotten or obtained.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Mayor, Recorder, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or any two or more of them, (of whom We will the Mayor or Recorder, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to be one,) may appoint and

keep Sessions, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts thereof, in the same manner and form as any other Justices assigned to keep the Peace, in the aforesaid County of Dorset, by any means, do and can.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that they and their Successors from henceforth and for ever, may have, and shall have, within the same Borough and Town, one discreet and fit man, which may be, shall be, and shall be named the Common Clerk of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and for the better execution of our will in this behalf, We have assigned, nominated, constituted, and made, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do assign, nominate, and make, our well-beloved Charles Bowles, to be the first and modern Clerk, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to continue in the same Office during the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and that the aforesaid Charles Bowles, before he may be admitted to the execution of the Office aforesaid, shall take a Corporal Oath, before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, well and faithfully to execute the Office of Common Clerk, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, in all things concerning that Office.

"And We will, that from time to time, and at all times after the death or amoval of the said Charles Bowles, it may be, and shall be lawful for the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, one other good and discreet man, to nominate, elect, and appoint, for the Common Clerk, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to continue in the same Office during the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, (a Corporal Oath before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, well and faithfully to execute the Office of Common Clerk, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, being first taken,) and so as often as the case shall so happen, unto which Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, We do give and grant full power and authority, by these Presents, to give and administer a reasonable Oath, as well unto the aforesaid Charles Bowles, as unto all other Persons hereafter to be named and chosen, unto the Office of Common Clerk, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, well and faithfully to execute that Office, without any other writ or warrant, from Us, our

Heirs, or Successors, by any means to be procured or obtained.

"We will also, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, and unto their Successors, that they and their Successors for ever hereafter, may have, and shall have, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, two Officers, which shall be called Serjeants at the Mace, to serve in the Courts of the same Borough and Town, and to do and execute, Process, Distress, Attachments, Arrests, Jurats, Panels, Inquisitions, Executions of Judgments, Warrants, and other business whatsoever, within the same Borough and Town, Liberty and Precincts thereof, belonging unto the Serjeants at the Mace, concerning the said causes, as in other Courts of Record in any Cities, Boroughs, or Towns Corporate, within the County of Dorset aforesaid, or elsewhere in England, have been used and accustomed, or ought to be done, which Serjeants at the Mace shall be named, chosen, and appointed, by the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and from time to time, shall be attendants upon the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and that the Serjeants at the Mace, so as is aforesaid, from time to time to be named and chosen, shall take a Corporal Oath before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, well and faithfully to execute that Office, and that after such Oaths so taken, they shall and may execute and perform that Office of Serjeants at the Mace, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, during the pleasure of the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being.

"AND FURTHER We will and ordain, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Serjeants at the Mace, so as is aforesaid, to be appointed within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, shall carry and bear the Silver or Gilded Maces, engraven and adorned with the sign of our Arms, before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, in every place within the same Borough and Town, Liberties and Precincts thereof.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, from henceforth for ever, may be and shall be,

Coroner and Clerk of the Market, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, and that the same aforesaid Mayor, of the aforesaid Town, for the time being, by himself, or by his sufficient Deputy or Deputies, from time to time for ever, shall and may do, execute, and perform, all and singular Acts, Deeds, and Things, whatsoever belonging or appertaining, by any means unto the said Office of Coroner and Clerk of the Market, or unto either of them, to be done, executed, and performed, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, and that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, before he may be admitted unto the Office of Coroner and Clerk of the Market, or either of them, shall take a Corporal Oath before the last Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, his Predecessor, well and faithfully to execute all things, which unto the Office of Coroner and Clerk of the Market, or either of them, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties or Precincts of the same, do appertain to be done.

"Wherefore We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do give and grant unto every last Predecessor, of every Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, full power and authority, to give and administer a reasonable Oath unto the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, his Successor, for the true and lawful execution of the Office of Coroner and Clerk of the Market, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and this without any warrant in that behalf to be procured or obtained; and We will that no Coroner or Clerk of the Market, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, but only the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, into that Borough, Town, Liberties, or Precincts of the same, to do or execute any thing which doth belong or appertain to the Office of Coroner or Clerk of the Market, or either of them, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties or Precincts of the same, by any means may intermeddle or enter.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, from time to time, for ever, shall and may, name, choose, and make, Constables, and all other necessary inferior Officers, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to continue in the same Offices respectively, during the pleasure

of the said Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Principal Burgesses, for the time being, which Officers, and every of them, shall take his Corporal Oath, before the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, well and faithfully to execute their Offices respectively in all things, and by all things; and that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, shall have full power and authority, a reasonable Oath unto such Constables and other Officers, so as aforesaid to be chosen, well and faithfully to execute their Offices respectively, to administer without any other writ, commission, or warrant, from Us, our Heirs, or Successors, by any means to be procured or obtained.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Principal Burgesses, and other Burgesses and Freemen, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, may not be put, nor impanelled, nor any of them, may be or shall be impanelled to appear in any Assizes, Jurats, Inquisitions, Attainders, or Recognizances whatsoever, before the Justices, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, assigned or to be assigned, to take Assizes or Nisi Prius, within the County of Dorset, or before any other Justices of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, whatsoever, assigned, or to be assigned, to keep the Peace in the said County of Dorset, or before the Justices, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, whatsoever, to hear and determine Treasons, Felonies, and other Misdemeanors, within the County aforesaid, or before the Escheator, or other Officer, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, of the same County, for the time being; nor may they be made, nor any of them shall be made or compelled, an Assessor of Taxes, or Collector of Tenths, Fifteenths, and other Tallages, Impositions, or Subsidies whatsoever, unto Us, or our Heirs, howsoever granted, or to be granted, or any part or parcel thereof, out of the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts aforesaid; and also that they, or any of them, shall not be ordained or assigned a Constable, Bailiff, or any other Officer or Minister, of Us, or our Heirs, out of the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts aforesaid; nor to do, receive, or occupy, any other Office or Charge above recited, nor any other Office or Charge whatsoever, contrary to their will, out of the Borough and Town, Liberties and Precincts aforesaid, may be called or compelled, or by any means constrained; and that albeit any of the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and

Commonalty, or of their Successors, within the Borough and Town, Liberties and Precincts aforesaid, Commorant and Resident, out of that Borough and Town, Liberties and Precincts, in any such Assizes, Jurats, Inquisitions, Attaints, or other Recognizances whatsoever, contrary to his will, shall be put, impannelled, returned, or chosen, unto any Offices or charge abovesaid, or unto any other Office out of the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts aforesaid, and that if to come or appear before our Justices, or other Commissioners or Officers of Us, or our Heirs, before whom, such Assizes, Jurats, Inquisitions, Attaints, or Recognizances, he shall happen to be summoned or returned in the same Assizes, Jurats, Inquisitions, Attaints, or Recognizances, he shall refuse either to be tried, to be or to do, receive or occupy, the Offices or charges aforesaid, he notwithstanding, so refusing, shall not incur any Contempt, Amerciament, Pain, Forfeiture, or Loss, by those occasions, or by any of them, towards Us, or our Heirs, by any means; but thereof, shall and may be for ever quit and discharged, as well before whatsoever Justices of Us, and our Heirs, as before the Treasurer and Barons of Us, and our Heirs of the Exchequer, and in whatsoever other places of Record, and before whatsoever other Commissioners and Officers of Us, and our Heirs, through our whole Realm.

"We will moreover, and by these Presents for Us, and our Heirs, do command and inhibit, that no Sheriff of the County of Dorset aforesaid, nor any other Bailiff of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, by any means may intermeddle, to do or execute any thing within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties or Precincts of the same, which to the Office of Sheriff or Bailiff, there doth belong to be done, but in default of the Mayor and Bailiffs of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or of their Officers, Ministers, and Serjeants, any use or custom, or other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever, heretofore had, made, or used, to the contrary notwithstanding, provided always, and it is our pleasure, and by these Presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, We will and prohibit, that no Attachment or other process be directed unto the Serjeants at the Mace, or other Officers of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or by any of them, shall be executed or served in any place, but within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors,

that they and their Successors for ever, may have and shall have, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, one Prison or Gaol, for the keeping and custody of all and singular Persons, attached, or to be attached, or to be adjudged unto the Prison or Gaol, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, for any cause, which in the Borough and Town aforesaid, shall be enquired, prosecuted, punished, or determined, there to remain until by lawful means, they are from thence delivered; and that the Mayor of the said Borough and Town, for the time being, by himself, or by his deputies or Officer, may be and shall be keeper of the same Gaol.

"We will moreover, and of our further special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do give and grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that they and their Successors, may have and receive, all Fines, Redemptions, and Amerciaments, whatsoever, for Trespass, and other Misdemeanors whatsoever, or other cause and matters, done, and to be done, within the same Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same; and also all, and all manner of Penalties and Forfeitures, forfeited, and to be forfeited, by any of the Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Inhabitants, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, there resident, and from henceforth happening to reside, and of their Successors, for the Peace of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, and otherwise by any means whatsoever.

"And also of all other Residents in the aforesaid Borough and Town, Precincts and Liberties of the same, unto Us, our Heirs, and Successors, within the same Borough and Town, Liberties and Precincts of the same, Forfeited, and to be Forfeited.

"And also all, and all manner of Issues, Fines, Redemptions, Pains, Forfeitures, and Amerciaments, of the aforesaid Inhabitants and Residents, as well before the Mayor and Recorder of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or their Deputy in the Court of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and before the Justices aforesaid, in the same Borough and Town, Forfeited, and to be Forfeited, Done, and to be Done, Imposed, and to be Imposed, for whatsoever cause, and by whatsoever Person, and also all, and singular Goods and Chattels, waived and estrayed, Deodands, Goods and Chattels of Felons and Fugitives, Felons of themselves; and put in Exigent, Outlawed, and to be Outlawed, Condemned, and to be Condemned,

Adjudged, and to be Adjudged, Attainted, and to be Attainted, Convicted, and to be Convicted, and of all other Felons whatsoever, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties and Precincts of the same, at any time hereafter, chancing, coming, or happening, by the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or by his Officers or Ministers, to the use and behoof of the said Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and their Successors, to be required, levied, and perceived, without occasion or let of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, Sheriff, Justices, or other Commissioners, Officers, or Ministers, of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, whatsoever.

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do give and grant, unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis aforesaid, and unto their Successors, that the Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and the Clerk, by Us, by these Presents, deputed and appointed, to take Recognizances of Debts, according to the form of the Statutes Merchant, and the Statute of Acton Burnell, may have for ever, full power and authority, to take and receive, any Recognizances, and execution thereupon to make, according to the form of the Statute of Acton Burnell, and also to do and execute all other things, which by force of the same Statutes, or either of them, do belong unto any Mayor, and to any Clerk appointed to receive Recognizances of Debt, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, or either of them.

"And that the same Mayor and Clerk for the time being, from henceforth for ever, may have and shall have, and by force of these presents, shall make, assume, and apply, one Seal of two pieces, the one part whereof shall be the greater Seal, to seal the aforesaid Recognizances, hereafter to be acknowledged before them, according to the form of the Statute aforesaid of Merchants, which Seal shall be, and shall be called from henceforth for ever, the Seal of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to Seal the aforesaid Recognizances to be taken within the Borough and Town aforesaid, the greater part whereof, shall always remain in the Custody of the Mayor of the same Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, and the other part of the same Seal, (that is to say) the lesser part of the same Seal, shall be, and shall remain for ever, in the hands of the Clerk for the time being, by these Presents, deputed or appointed to write or enroll the Recognizances aforesaid.

"And for the execution of our will in this behalf of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, We will, in and by these Presents for Us, our Heirs and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, and by these Presents, We do ordain that Charles Bowles, now Common Clerk of the Borough and Town aforesaid from henceforth during the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, (of whom We will, the Mayor for the time being, to be one,) be, and shall be, Clerk of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to take, write, and enroll, Recognizances of debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, or of either of them, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, and to keep the lesser part of the Seal aforesaid, and to do and execute all other things, which unto any Clerk appointed for Recognizances of debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, or of either of them, do belong to be done or executed.

"AND FURTHER We do by these Presents, make, constitute, and appoint, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, the said Charles Bowles, Clerk of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to write and enroll Recognizances of Debts, to be taken within the Borough and Town aforesaid, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, and to keep the lesser piece of the Seal aforesaid: And Further, to do and execute all things, which, unto any Clerk appointed for Recognizances of Debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, or of either of them, do belong to be done or executed, during the pleasure of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, (of whom We will the Mayor for the time being, to be one.)

"AND FURTHER We will, and by these Presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do grant unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, and by these Presents We do ordain, that after the decease of, or amoving of the said Charles Bowles, from the Office of Clerk of the Statutes aforesaid, the Common Clerk, commonly called the Town Clerk, of the said Borough and Town, for the time being, may be, and shall be, always hereafter, a Clerk of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to take, write, and enroll, Recognizances of Debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, and of either of them, and to keep the lesser piece of the Seal aforesaid. And Further to do and execute, all other

things, which unto any Clerk appointed for Recognizances of Debts according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, do appertain to do or execute, and the said Common Clerk of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, Clerk of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, to take, write, and enroll, Recognizances of Debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, and of either of them, within the Borough and Town aforesaid, and to keep the lesser piece of the Seal aforesaid. And Further to do and execute all other things, which unto any Clerk appointed for Recognizances of Debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, or either of them, do belong, to do or execute, after the death or amotion of the said Charles Bowles, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, We do make, ordain, and appoint, and that the aforesaid Charles Bowles, during the pleasure of the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, and Bailiffs, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom We will the Mayor for the time being, to be one,) and after the death or amotion of the said Charles Bowles, the Common Clerk of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, from henceforth for ever, be, and shall be Clerk, to take Recognizances of Debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, and that the same Charles Bowles, during the time wherein he shall remain in that Office, and after his decease or amotion, the Common Clerk of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, may have, and shall have, full power and authority, to do and execute, all and every thing which unto the Office of the Clerk for Recognizances of Debts, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, deputed by force of the same Statutes, or either of them, by any means do appertain to be done and executed, and that such Recognizances, so as aforesaid, taken and Recognized, be, and shall be, of such and so great force and effect in the Law, as any Recognizances taken and Recognized before any other Mayor and Clerk, and other Officers of any other City, Borough, or Town, within our Realm, according to the form of the Statutes aforesaid, or of either of them, be, and shall be, or ought to be, or by any means may be, or shall be; and that the aforesaid Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid for the time being, and the aforesaid Charles Bowles, during the time wherein he shall remain in the aforesaid Office, and after his decease or amotion, the Mayor of the Borough and Town, and the Common Clerk of the same Borough and Town, for the time being, and every of them, all, and every other thing whatsoever, which by the Statutes aforesaid, or either of them, in or

about such Recognizances, are appointed to be done, may do, and execute, from henceforth for ever.

"AND FURTHER of our special grace, and certain knowledge, and mere motion, We will, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, do give, grant, confirm, ratify, and approve, unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors, all, and all manner of Manors, Messuages, Mills, Lands, Tenements, Meadows, Feedings, Pastures, Commons, Courts, Fairs, Wakes, Markets, Liberties to hold Pleas, and have commission of Pleas, and also grant such, the same, and the like Customs, Liberties, Franchises, Immunities, Exemptions, Privileges, Quittances, Jurisdictions, Void Grounds, Commodities, Profits, Emoluments, and Hereditaments whatsoever, as, and which the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Weymouth aforesaid, or the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Burgesses, of Melcombe aforesaid, or of Melcombe Regis aforesaid, or the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, or any other Person or Persons, Lord or Lords, Possessor or Possessors, Owner or Owners, of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, or of any part or parcel thereof, or any of them, or of the same, by whatsoever name, or by whatsoever names, or by whatsoever Incorporation, or by pretext of whatsoever name or Incorporations they now have, hold, use, and enjoy, or at any time heretofore have had, held, used, or enjoyed, or ought to have, hold, use, or enjoy, by reason and by pretext, of any gift or grant, or by pretext of any Charters, or Letters Patent, by any of our Progenitors or Ancestors, late Kings or Queens of England or Great Britain, or by any other or others whatsoever, by any means heretofore made, granted, or confirmed, or by reason or pretext of any Act of Parliament, or Acts of Parliament, or by any other lawful means, right or title, custom, use, or any prescription, heretofore lawfully used, had, or accustomed; albeit, the same, or some, or any of them, have been forfeited or lost, and albeit the same have been held, ill used, or not used, or discontinued, to have, hold, and enjoy, unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and unto their Successors for ever, yielding and paying therefore yearly unto Us, our Heirs, and Successors, so many, so great, such, the same, and the like Fee-Farm-Rents, Services Sums of Money, and Demands, whatsoever as, and which heretofore have been accustomed to be yielded and paid, or as, and which they ought to yield and pay unto Us, for the same.

"Wherefore We will, and by these Presents for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, strictly enjoining, do command that the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and their Successors, may have, hold, use, and enjoy for ever, all Liberties, Authorities, Jurisdictions, Franchises, Exemptions, and Quittances aforesaid, according to the tenor and effect of these our Letters Patent, without interruption or let of Us, our Heirs, or Successors; the Justices, Sheriffs, Escheators, or other Bailiffs, or Ministers, whatsoever of Us, our Heirs, or Successors; willing that the same Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or any of them, by reason of the Premises or any of them, by Us, our Heirs or Successors, Justices, Sheriffs, or other Bailiffs or Ministers whatever, of Us, our Heirs, or Successors, therefore may not, nor be, or occasioned to be, molested, grieved, or in anything disturbed, willing, and by these Presents, commanding and charging as well the Treasurer, Chancellor, and Barons of our Exchequer at Westminster, and also all other Justices of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, as unto our Serjeants at Law, Attorney and Solicitor General, for the time being, and unto every of them, and to all other Officers and Ministers whatsoever of Us, our Heirs, and Successors, that neither they, nor any of them, any writ or summons of Quo Warranto, or any other writ or writs, or process whatsoever against the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or any of them, for any Causes, Things, Matters, Offences, Claim, or Usurpations, of any of them duly claimed, used, attempted, had, or usurped, before the day of the making of these Presents, may prosecute or continue, or shall do, or cause any of them to be prosecuted or continued; willing also that the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or any of them, by any Justices, Officers, or Ministers aforesaid, in, or for the due Use, Claim, Usurpation, or any other Liberties, Franchises, or Jurisdictions within the Borough and Town aforesaid, Liberties, Limits, or Precincts of the same, before the day of the making of these Letters Patent, may not be molested, or hindered, or compelled to answer unto those things, or any of them, for that express mention of the true yearly value, or of the certainty of the Premises, or any of them, or of other Gifts or Grants, by Us, or any of our Progenitors or Predecessors, unto the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of

the Borough and Town aforesaid, or unto their Predecessors heretofore made in these Presents, is not made, or any Provision, Proclamation, or Restraint, to the contrary thereof, heretofore had, made, set forth, ordained, or provided, or any other Thing, Cause, or Matter, whatsoever in any thing notwithstanding.

"Witness Ourself at Westminster, this 25th day of May, in the 44th Year of our Reign.

"WILMOT."

"By Writ of Privy Seal,

"MAY 25th, 1804."

The Mayor, Recorders, and Aldermen have frequently been returned as Members of Parliament for these towns.

The number of voters were under 200, but in 1704 was increased by malpractices to 648.

1714. It was resolved by a committee of the House of Commons, that no freeholders made since the election of April 1711, unless claiming by devise or descent, had any right of voting in the last election, *and that all conveyances to split and divide the interest in any houses or lands here, among several persons, in order to multiply votes at the election, are illegal and void.*

Upon the trial of a contested election in 1730, the counsel on both sides, agreed to the following "That the right of voting be in the Mayor, Aldermen and capital Burgesses inhabiting in the Borough, and in persons seized of freeholds within the Borough, and not receiving alms," though another resolution, states the right of election to be in the mayor, aldermen, common council, select or capital burgesses, or jurats only.

2nd Geo. IV. From a spirit of opposition which influenced several members of the corporation, a majority of them absented themselves on the day of nomination, whereby, the mayor retained his office till the 16th of December following, when the Court of King's Bench, by a Mandamus, ordered a fresh nomination, and another member of the corporate body was elected to fill the office for the ensuing year, and the mayor was not only by a Writ of Ouster, ejected from the Civic Chair, but also from his gown, as a capital burgess, but at the election of capital burgesses, January 9th, 1828, 9th Geo. IV. he was unanimously re-chosen into the Corporation.

4th Geo. IV. W. Oakley, Esq., on leaving his Mayoralty, presented the corporation with a gold chain and medal, manufactured by Rundell and Bridge. Round the arms of the town, on the obverse, which are richly embossed in dead gold is this inscription, "FOR THE USE OF THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH AND TOWN OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE REGIS." On the reverse, is the following, in a beautiful purple enamel and gold letters, "PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE REGIS, BY WILLIAM OAKLEY, ESQ., BAILIFF AND ALDERMAN, 1823.

It is an handsome massive gold chain, formed of the double coronation gold, and the medal is suspended from a coronet of pure virgin gold.

The following is the acknowledgment of the gift from the corporate body.

"Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis."

"At an assembly of the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and principal burgesses of the said borough and town, held at the Guildhall, on the 21st day of November, 1823. At this assembly, William Oakley, Esq., late mayor and one of the bailiffs, and also alderman of the corporation, presented to the mayor and corporation a very magnificent gold chain and medal accompanied by a letter of presentation.

The following resolution was then proposed and seconded and unanimously adopted, (i. e.) "That the corporation of the borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis do accept with the highest gratification, the magnificent gift presented to them by William Oakley, Esq., bailiff, and late chief magistrate of the said borough and town.

"That the members of the corporation do collectively as well as individually, declare their respectful acknowledgments to William Oakley, Esq., for the liberal feelings which have dictated this splendid instance of munificence, so well described in a letter which accompanied it, and do hereby unanimously resolve, that the chain and medal now received, shall be considered at all times a necessary appendage and official decoration of the chief magistrate of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, to be worn by him in memorial of the sentiments of general harmony and union, now happily subsisting in the borough, and in perpetual testimony of their respect, affection, and gratitude towards William Oakley, Esq."

Until this time no distinction had been observed in the gowns of the different members of the corporate body, which were first worn when the new charter was granted; to mark their

opinion of this munificent gift, the corporate body determined to make a distinguished difference in their dress, and accordingly out of the funds of the public treasury, elegant scarlet robes ornamented with sable trimmings, were provided and ordered to be worn on all official occasions, and to descend with their offices.

5th Geo. IV. James Bower, Esq., in lieu of spending the receipts of the mayoralty, presented the corporation with a most superb and elegant pair of gold maces, richly embossed with emblematical arms, and on the top of which, in gold letters, over a beautiful purple enamel, is inscribed "THE GIFT OF JAMES BOWER, ESQ, ALDERMAN OF THE CORPORATION OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE REGIS, 1824."

7th Geo. IV. James Willis Weston Esq. presented the Town Clerk with a silk gown, to be worn on official occasions, and had the town arms cast upon the buttons of the subordinate officers.

9th Geo. IV. The election of chief magistrate this year, produced a degree of excitement far beyond any former precedent. Generally at this time the worthy inhabitants pride themselves on the only privilege allowed them, that of choosing their mayor, and exert themselves it must be confessed, rather in a boisterous manner, but this time far exceeded all others, for previous to the day of election, two members of the corporation publicly expressed their intention to proceed to a ballot, if they were on the nomination, (which, was the case in the contested election for the office of mayor, 1st Geo. IV. alluded to in page 80 when 200 inhabitants polled,) but on the eve of St. Matthew's day, one of the candidates resigned, and the other was disappointed, for though on the nomination, certain of the burgesses absented themselves, and thus rendered it impossible, from a deficiency of members, to proceed to the election; it was adjourned to the next day, by virtue of an act of parliament, which empowers it to be so adjourned; the same disappointment ensued, and the corporator at the instigation of his friends, who felt aggrieved at being deprived of their franchise, procured a Writ of Mandamus to compel the absentees to attend; and accordingly, on Tuesday, November 18th, the election was held, and there being a full attendance and no opposition, he was chosen to fill the office for the remainder of the year. This contest resembled in a great degree those for the election of parliamentary burgesses, when meetings were held, committees were appointed, the tocsin of defiance was sounded, and the banner of opposition was unfurled, and each party seemed determined to crush his opponent, "vi et armis."

The successful candidate, was by the exertions of his friends placed in a triumphal car, decorated with flags, &c., and thus borne on the shoulders of his fellow townsmen to his home, amidst the plaudits and cheers of his friends; it is supposed that this was the first time that ever the chief magistrate was thus honoured.

The following is a copy of the Mandamus.

"GEORGE the FOURTH by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset, and to every of them Greeting.

"WHEREAS our said Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, is an ancient Borough and Town, and the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of our said Borough and Town, and all and singular Burgesses and Inhabitants of the said Borough and Town, now are, and for divers (to wit) ten years now last past, and upwards, have been, and were, one Body Corporate and Politic, in deed, fact, and name, by the name of the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the County of Dorset. AND WHEREAS our late Royal Father, the Lord George the Third, late King of the united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, by his Letters Patent, bearing date at Westminster, the twenty-fifth day of May, in the Forty-fourth year of his Reign, did (amongst other things,) grant to the said Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and their Successors, that in future, there might and should be within the Borough and Town aforesaid, one of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the said Borongh and Town, who should be, and should be named Mayor of the said Borough and Town aforesaid, and that there should be divers other men of the Borough and Town aforesaid, who should be, and should be named Aldermen of the said Borough and Town; and two other men of the Borough and Town aforesaid, to be chosen in the form in the said Letters Patent mentioned, who should be, and should be called Bailiffs of the said Borough and Town; and that there should be within the Borough and Town aforesaid, twenty-four other men, chosen in the form in the said Letters Patent also mentioned, who should be, and should be called Chief and Principal Burgesses of the said Borough and Town,

"And his said Late Majesty did by his said Letters Patent, grant to the aforesaid Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and their Successors, that the Mayor and Aldermen of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, or the greater part of them, (of whom his said Late Majesty willed the Mayor for the time being to be one,) should have full power and authority to choose and name on the Feastday of Saint Matthew the Apostle, in every year, in the Guildhall of the Borough and Town aforesaid, or in some other convenient place within the Borough and Town aforesaid, being congregated and assembled together, four of the Burgesses or Inhabitants of the Borough and Town aforesaid, whether the same, or any of them were, or had been, Aldermen, Bailiffs, or Principal Burgesses, or not, out of which four, so to be named and chosen, the Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Principal Burgesses, and other Burgesses, and Inhabitants, of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, (they being also for that purpose, congregated and assembled together,) or the greater part of them, as should be so congregated, should have full power and authority by the greater part of the voices of them so assembled together, to choose and make one to be the Mayor of the said Borough and Town, and after that he should be so elected and chosen, and before he should be admitted to execute that Office, that he should take a Corporal Oath, before the last Mayor, or his Predecessor, or before the Recorder of the said Borough and Town, for the time being, in the presence of all the Aldermen and Principal Burgesses of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for the time being, who should be there present, rightly, well, and faithfully, to execute the Office of Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, and that he who should be so elected and chosen as aforesaid, after such Oath so taken, might execute the Office of Mayor of the Borough and Town aforesaid, for one whole year, and from thenceforth until one other unto that Office in due manner should be elected and sworn, as by the said Letters Patent now remaining inrolled of Record in our High Court of Chancery, reference being thereunto had, will (amongst other things,) more fully and at large appear; which said Letters Patent, soon after the making thereof, to wit, on the said twenty-fifth day of May, in the Forty-fourth year of the reign of the said Lord the King, the then Mayor, Aldermen, Bailiffs, Burgesses, and Commonalty of the said Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, accepted and agreed to, that is to say at the Borough and Town aforesaid, in the county aforesaid.

"AND WHEREAS We have been given to understand in our Court before us, that on the Feastday of Saint Matthew the Apostle, now last past, to wit, on Sunday, the twenty-first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight, being the day appointed, in and by the said Letters Patent, for the election of a Mayor, of and for the said Borough and Town, no due Election was had or made of a Mayor of and for the said Borough and Town, nor was any Election had or made of a Mayor, of and for the said Borough and Town, on the day next after the said twenty-first day of September, pursuant to the direction of the Statute in that case, made and provided, nor hath any Election of a Mayor of and for the said Borough and Town been since at any time had or made, as we have been informed in our said Court, before Us, to the manifest hinderance and obstruction of Public Justice within the said Borough and Town.

"Therefore being willing, that due and speedy Justice should be done in this behalf, as it is reasonable; DO COMMAND you, and every of you, firmly enjoining you, that you, and every of you, having a right to vote at, or to do any other act necessary to be done, in order to the Election of a Mayor of the said Borough and Town, do upon Tuesday the eighteenth day of November Instant, at eleven of the clock, in the forenoon of the same day, assemble yourselves in due manner, in the Guildhall of the said Borough and Town, or in some other convenient place within the said Borough and Town, and that being so assembled, you do then and there, in due manner, proceed to the Election and Swearing of a Mayor, of and for the said Borough and Town, for the residue of one whole year, to be computed from the Feastday of Saint Matthew the Apostle, now last past, and that you and every of you, do every act, necessary to be done by you, or any of you in order to such Election and Swearing according to your respective authority in that behalf, and according to the usage and custom of the said Borough and Town, and pursuant to the Statute in such case made and provided, and that such of you to whom the same shall of right belong to administer or cause to be administered, to such person who shall be so elected into the said Office of Mayor of the said Borough and Town, the oath for the due and faithful execution of the said Office of the Mayor of the said Borough and Town, and all such other oaths as are in that case, usually administered and taken; And that such of you to whom the same shall of right belong, do admit, or cause to be admitted, the same person into the said Office of Mayor of the said Borough and Town, together with all the liberties, privileges, and franchises, to the said Office be-

longing and appertaining, according to the true intent and meaning of the said Letters Patent, and pursuant to the directions of the Statute in that case made and provided, or that you show us cause to the contrary thereof, lest by your default, the same complaint be repeated to Us; and how you shall have executed this our Writ, make known to Us at Westminster, on Saturday next, after the octave of Saint Martin, then returning to Us, this Our said Writ, and this you are not to omit."

"By the Court."

8th Geo. IV., June 11th, 1828. A rule was granted in the Court of King's Bench, against the Town Clerk, for holding the office of Town Clerk, he being an alderman. 9th Geo. IV., May 16th, 1829. An application in the nature of a Quo Warranto was made, to show by what authority one of the corporation held the appointment of town clerk being also an alderman. In the pleas to this information, it was set forth that one of the provisions of the charter of incorporation was, that any one who should be duly elected to the office of the mayor of the borough, and should duly perform the duties of the office, should at the expiration of the term of service, become ipso facto an alderman of the borough, and entitled to act as such during life, or till removed for misconduct, that the defendant had in this manner become an alderman of the borough, and had never been removed, and that this was the right on which he took upon himself to hold and exercise the office.

A judgment of Ouster was prayed on the following account, for it appears that the appointment of town clerk was in the mayor and corporation, that a variable salary was attached to it, at the pleasure of the corporate body, whose duty is to attend all corporate meetings, take down the minutes, and act as the servant of them; that though aldermen have performed the duty of clerk, it was when there was no specific officer appointed, that if an alderman is to be chosen a clerk, he must vote for his own appointment, or by not voting, he abandons his duty as alderman, and the act may be incomplete without his vote, that as there is a variable salary, he must either not vote as an alderman, or he must vote as one, and thus raise his own salary, that if a question of mis-conduct should arise, he might give a casting vote in his own favour, and in writing the minutes, he must act both as an alderman and clerk. The Judges concurred in this feeling, that the two offices were incompatible, and a judgment of Ouster was given; the salary that is now paid, is £10 per annum.

THE TOWN HALL

Is situated towards the west end of the town, and when Weymouth had its bailiffs, it no doubt was kept in better preservation than it is at present, but alas! the glory of Lebanon has departed;—it is now used as a school room where the charity boys and other scholars are educated: like angels' visits, which are few and far between, it is ever and anon honoured by the presence of the corporate body; the mayor holds his Court Leet here, and the representatives of the borough are carried to it when chosen. It possesses a turret, where a bell is suspended, and is used to call the parishioners to vestry, and to announce funerals of the inhabitants; it has nothing very remarkable in its appearance, except its lower part, formerly the town prison, before the junction of the towns, now used as a stable: the architecture has an antique appearance, which might probably have been either a place of worship, or some portion of St. Nicholas's chapel: there is some reason to believe that it was partly re-built about 1730: it does not appear to be as old as a house adjoining, which has a window blocked up by the rear of the hall.

THE CASTLE.

Weymouth castle, called also Sandesfoot or Sandsfoot, from its being built near the sand, is situate on a high cliff, about half a mile from the town, nearly opposite Portland castle. From its situation it must have commanded the entire approach to Weymouth; Leland calls it "a right goodlie and warlyke castel, havyng one open barbicane." Henry VIII. in 1540, after that glorious event, the annihilation of the papal power in England, and the demolition of the abbies, was apprehensive of an invasion from some of the catholic kings, visited the sea coast in person, and ordered engineers to examine where forts might be built in those places that they might consider most vulnerable; and in 1544, on his return from France, put such places as were most liable to surprize by the French &c., into a posture of defence, and accordingly built the fortifications at Portsmouth, Portland, and Weymouth castles, more especially, as this place had been frequently plundered by the French.

Its form appears to have been a parallelogram, or a long square, and was faced with square stone, now all carried away.

The north part which seems to have been the governor's apartment, was all vaulted, where the prisoners were secured, as the descending flight of stone steps evidently shows, and leading from it are two flights of steps ascending, one of them in a circular manner, most probably to assist in letting fall the ponderous portcullis, as the grooves in which it ran, still remain; the other steps led to the tower, on which the flag of England once proudly waved, and where the arms of Henry supported by a Wyvern and Unicorn, once were affixed. The south fronting the ocean, was the gun room, as the various embrazures testify. Before this was a platform, lower, but broader than the castle, and serving to flank its east and west sides, which had also embrazures for great guns, and beneath them, the barbicane, or two tiers of loop-holes for small arms, the lowest, level with the ground.

When entire, this must have been a castle of some strength, as the walls even now, are thick and lofty.

On the east are the remains of a gate, and a deep moat or trench, excepting the south part surrounds it; its remains even now attract many an inquisitive enquiry as to why it has been so neglected, as where the neighing of hostile steeds, and the busy clang of arms once sounded to the battle's din, the humble grass now grows, its walls are the dormitories of the birds of the air, and its rooms afford pasturage to the cattle; a change certainly more gratifying to us as a nation, but still its bold towering appearance, as seen ascending the hill, or viewing it from the sea, reminds us of some by-gone tale.

1584. John Wadham of Catherstone, Esq., was custos or keeper of it, as the following extract from his tombstone in Whitchurch Canonicorum testifies, "Here lyeth Iohn Wadham of Catherstone, Esq., who deceased A. D. 1584, who was during his life time Captaine of the Queen's Majesty's castle called Sandesfoot, besides Weymouth in the county of Dorset." 1631, December 8th, George Bamfield had a grant of custos of Sandesfoot castle during pleasure; and June 4th, 1640, Nathaniel Speccot, Knight, also was made custos for life. 1643, Sir Anthony Astley Cooper was governor of it, and in 1644, the early part of it, Colonel Ashburnham was governor. 1654. Major Bowerman M. P. deputy governor of the Isle of Wight, had the command of Sandown and Weymouth castles. It appears to have been captured by the Royalists, and the Parliamentary troops frequently, just as each party had the ascendant, for August 19th, 1644, Colonel William Sydenham was Governor of it, and November 20th, the same year, the Treasurer, Bury, paid him £900 on its account; and July 12th, 1647, though the

parliament ordered the garrison in Weymouth to be destroyed, yet this was continued, and in December, 1647, a Colonel John Hean or Hayne was governor upon an engagement of 15*s*. a day, as governor and captain.

1647, April 13th. On an establishment agreed on by the parliament for the forces to be continued, the governor was to have 8*s*. per diem as governor, and 7*s*. as captain; and in 1650, Weymouth was rated at £30 a month, to support the garrison.

Bury, the treasurer for this country, disbursed to Richard Scovill, commissary of Weymouth and Portland garrisons from 1644, to 1647 inclusive, £13,655 18*s*. 3*d*.

1645. Colonel Fussell, who was captured at Sherborne, was sub-governor of Weymouth castle for the king.

1685. Humphry Weld of Lulworth, Esq., was governor for many years. Since the Restoration, it seems to have been neglected, and each succeeding year, still robs it of its remains; which together with the encroaching ravages of the sea, that rolls at its base, will ere long, hurl it from its proud pinnacle, and leave not a wreck behind.

1760. An act passed for repairing and widening roads from Revels Inn to Dorchester, Weymouth, Melcombe Regis, to Sandesfoot, in the highway to Portland.

THE FORTS.

There were also several forts erected in the town, and about the mouth of the harbour; and during that fruitful period of enterprize the civil wars, several were hastily thrown up.

1st. New Fort, or Jetty Fort, erected at the entrance of the harbour, at the end of the old pier, immediately at the foot of the hill; this was ordered to be taken down 1661, but in 1739, three guns were planted in the same situation.

2nd. St. Nicholas's Chapel was also converted by the parliament into a fort.

3rd. South of No. 1 was another on the top of the hill, at the Eastern point, called Nothe Fort, this was mounted with three large guns, and was subsequently used as a battery, till 1821, when government removed the guns, which were six twenty-four pounders, and arms, to the Ordnance Department at Woolwich, and is now converted into a station for the preventive service.

4th. Dock Fort, under the hill, West of the Jetty Pier, when in 1739, three guns still remained.

5th. Another on the Look-out, South of the town, armed with two guns. Bury says the Nothe Fort was erected to keep the Portlanders in, and mentions another whose situation at this time cannot be ascertained, though in a garden on the Look-out there are traces of some embankments, which appear to refer to one of these forts.

THE BRIDGE.

The passage that originally existed for conveying individuals from one town to the other, was, as Leland says, in 1530, merely a large boat without any oars, and drawn over by a rope affixed to two posts, erected on each side of the harbour, precisely similar to the one which was destroyed in 1824, at the Portland Ferry, but this tardy conveyance was ill suited to the increasing wants of the inhabitants, though not till the union of the towns, (for before this the river Way proved a fruitful source of contention, and was, as the charter of Elizabeth testifies, the occasion of the union,) was there any other conveyance, but in 1597, a wooden one of seventeen arches, was erected at the expense of several opulent individuals of London, whose commercial interests required it; this having been injured during the civil wars, at last fell to pieces, and was re-built 12th Annæ at the expense of Thomas Hardy, Knt., William Harvey, James Littleton, and Reginald Marriott, Esqrs., the four representatives. This existed till 1741, when another was built, to which the celebrated Bubb Doddington assisted at the expense, it was sixty yards long; this had a draw bridge in the centre, through which vessels passed to the Western part and backwater; another in 1770 was erected seventy yards West of the others, whereby the length of the harbour was encreased, so as to admit more vessels; this was erected directly in the teeth of the inhabitants of Weymouth, and it greatly inconvenienced them, they presented a petition against it, which was not acceded to, the present one had the same objection raised against its erection, various sites were suggested above its present position, but at a general meeting of the inhabitants, it was resolved to be erected where it was considered most eligible.

The following letter was sent by the corporation, to Bullen

Rymes, Esq., of Whaddon, M. P. for Weymouth, 13th Car. II. requesting his assistance towards erecting the bridge.

"Noble Colonel.

"Your publique spirit hath very much quickened our thoughts of undertaking this new brydge for long spoken of, wherein we hope to make some considerable progresse without delay, not doubting (with your good satisfaction,) that our other Parliament Burgesses will follow your liberal example; those Honorable Knights, Sir Jno. Coventry and Sir William Penn, havyng already manifested their readiness to promote the same, as we understand by your Sonne, Mr. Pley.

"So to adde the more life to this good worke, we are about to take the subscriptions of our Townesmen, that are of abilitie to advance somewhat considerable; wee are now partly assured that Baronet Portman, and four other Gentlemen of this County, will extend their bounty therein, wee would doe soe now without losse, and wee hope to have the assent of your Honor, with our very humble and heartie thanks for your continued attentions to the well being of this Towne and Neighbourhoode, when you have been formally pleased to accept of a Membership, for which (with your other acts of Charity) wee shall ever endeavour to manifest ourselves.

"Sir, yr Col. Excelly.,

"Most Grateful and Willing Servants,

"ROGER CUTTANCE,

"Maior,

Robert Wall, Tobias Bury, Bayliffs; Fabyan Hoder, Ricd. Scoville, George Pley, Senr., George Pley, Junr., Ricd. Yardley, Jno. Swetman, Alex. Clotworthy, Ben. Craich, Simon Orchard, Matt. Swetman, Just. Kingson, Nath. Abbott."

"Weymouth, June 17, 1668.

"To the Honble. Colonel Bullen Rymes,

"In Gard'ner Lane, in Westminster."

"Post paid 3d."

12th Carolus II. King Charles 2nd granted an annuity of £100, payable out of the custom dues, for the purpose of repairing the bridge and pier, and cleansing the harbour, to continue for ten years.

The following petition was sent by the corporate body to King Charles 2nd, requesting a continuation of this grant from him, to repair the harbour, &c.

"To His Most Sacred Maiestie.

"The Humble Peticon of the Maior, Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Common Council, of Waymouth and Melcombe Regis, Co. Dorsett,

"Sheweth,

"That your Maiestie, (presentlie after yo'r happie restoation,) was gratiously pleased by your Letters Patent, bearing date the 10th of October, 1660, and in the 12th yere of your reigne, to Grant to your Peticoners an amnesty of £100 per Annum, for the reparation and maintenance of these Peers, and Improving of there Harbor, the same to continue for the term of 10 yeres, payable out of the Customs Dues, which tyme beyng now expired, and the work not perfitted, and although in a good forwardlie state, until the late Horred Tempest and extraordinary high tydes, happynyng together in March last, threw down and damnyfyed the said Peers and Works more than £300 will repayre, and much more than your poor Peticoners are able (of themselves) to make goode, and which is worse, if not speedilie amended may endanger the Harbor, which hereafter will be very considerable, if the improvements be continued for some few yeres longer, there beyng (by what hath beene done already,) two foote water more than formilie, and Shippes that were wont to lie on dry land at low water, doe now swimme, so as your Peticoners no ways doubt but that in a few yeres, any 5th rate Friggott belonging to your Navy Royall, may come with safety and careene there, a thing not heard of heretofore, and will be of infinite advantage to your Maiestie's service, and upon any accident or foule weather, as well as to tradying in general, but essentually to the poore inhabitants, burnt out and undone for want of trade.

"Wherefore your Peticoners most humbly implore your most Excellent Maiestie, that you will be most graciouslie pleased to continue your princelie favor in remayning your said Letters Patent for such longer tyme as your Maiestie in your Princelie Bounty shall thinke fit, that so good a worke may be perfitted, and your Peticoners preserved from ruine.

"And as in duty bound,

"Your poor Peticoners,

"Shall ever pray, &c."

This bridge also fared the fate of the former, and in 1820 it was determined to erect one of stone, which from its contiguity is singular was never used before; the old one had given frequent symptoms of decay, and which had been repaired till its gradual subsidence gave tokens that ere long it would inevitably descend to the level of the harbour;

accordingly the mayor and corporation petitioned parliament for an act to enable them to levy tolls, &c. to defray its cost of erection, &c., which was granted.

1821, September 10. The foundation stone was laid with great splendour by William Williams, Esq., one of the Representatives of the Town, and Provincial Grand Master of Free and accepted Masons for the County, assisted by the mayor, James Willis Weston, Esq.

A grand provincial meeting of Free Masons was held, who together with the corporation, the benefit clubs, and other societies, decorated with their various emblems, assisted at the ceremony: it is a handsome elliptical stone building of three arches, with a swing iron one in the centre, it was erected about seventy yards below the former, it cost building upwards of £20,000, and was opened for public thoroughfare, January 12th, 1824. 2nd George IV. A further act was passed to enlarge the former provisions, &c., and a duty of one shilling and sixpence per chaldron was imposed on all culm, coke, coal, &c.; the tolls let in 1828 for £325 per annum, the corporation pay five per cent for all sums invested in the bridge; the fee paid for opening the swing arch is six shillings; the weight of machinery moved by the swing bridge is 1800 tons, and is so contrived that only four men are required to move it. The plate, which together with the current coins of the realm deposited with the foundation stone, has the following inscription;

Favente Deo Optimo Maximo
Regnante Georgio IV. Patre Patriæ
Hujus Pontis
Feliciter Fundamenta Posuit
Gulielmus Williams Armiger
Summus Provincialis Magister
De Comitatu Dorset
Adstante
Fratrum Societatis Architectonicæ
Et Procerum Oppidi Hujus
Spectabili Corona
Populi Quoque Plurima Comitante Caterva
Decimo Tertio Die Augusti
Anno Salutis Humani 1821
Æræ Architectonicæ 5821
Prætore
Jacobo Willis Weston Armigero
Consulibus
Roper Weston } Armigeris
Jacobo Bower }
Georgio Moneypenny Architectonæ

February 3, 1823. On pulling down some buildings to make the approaches to the bridge, which form a beautiful coup-d'œil, an urn filled with silver coins of 5*s.*, 2*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.*, and 6*d.* to a large amount were found, of Jacobus, 1602, Elizabeth, 1578, and Carolus I. 1618; they were in a fine state of preservation; they were most probably deposited there during the civil wars, when the frequent changes that occurred, made this deposit of their money necessary.

6th Edward III. It was found by an inquisition that the haven and moiety of the water, (aquæ mediatus,) between Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, belonged to the vill of Weymouth, and not Melcombe.

31st Carolus II. A commission of enquiry was returned into the Exchequer at Easter term, it appears (Juratores dicunt,) the above moiety extends one mile West of the bridge, and under the name of Melcombe quay, measures 392 feet in length, from the bridge, E. S. E., to the George Stairs, being at the W. N. W. about 22 feet, and the E. S. E. about 15 feet, bounded on the E. S. E. by the George Stairs, on the W. N. W. by the Bridge, &c., on the S. S. W. by the River Wey, and on the N. N. E. by the town of Melcombe Regis.

In the returns made to the magistrates of the county at Easter Sessions 1791, it appears that Weymouth bridge situate in the parish of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, was built at the expense of an individual, and was frequently repaired at the expense of the corporation.

1740. Weymouth paid to the county rate, £2 7*s.* 10½*d.*, and to the land tax, £103 1*s.* 5*d.* In 1672, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis paid £1 15*s.* 11*d.*, as their proportion of the county bridge rate, though they alledged that they were exempt through their charter, and an action was commenced between them and the county on the subject.

THE PORT.

The port of Weymouth extends westerly from beyond Portland, and easterly to near St. Albans head; includes several Coast Guard Stations, cutters, &c.; has a Custom-house, which is situated in Melcombe, on the centre of the quay; to which is attached, a Collector, a Comptroller, &c., and the usual number of subordinate officers, the computed expenses which include the salaries to the various officers, cutters, &c., amount to about £1500 per annum, the harbour itself is exceedingly well sheltered, and vessels lie in perfect security,

both at high and low water, secure from any danger; it has lately since the appointment of the steam packets, been much improved and the quays which hitherto have been strangely neglected, are on a progress towards re-building in a more secure manner. The Back water, (al. Þ þaber ꝓuðin ꝓcope of Wæÿe-Ꝏuð:) which forms a lake, and at spring tides, empties a vast body of water into the harbour, is productive of the most prophylactic benefit, as it serves the purpose of effectually scouring it from every obstruction which would otherwise prove very detrimental to the œconomy of the place. It is in contemplation to enclose some of this ground, by a high wall, and thus contract the wide expanse, make a still stronger current, and the land thus gained, will form ground for building upon, or else, if planted, a fine umbrageous walk.

To improve the harbour there has been issued from the Harbour-Master's office, 19th September 1827, a notice to Masters of vessels, pilots, &c., that no ship or vessel will be allowed to moor in any part of the harbour, with their anchors lying in the channel, as the buoys are found to obstruct the passage of the steam packets, nor will be allowed to bring up and moor in Mac Saunders's hole, it being the berth solely appointed for the steam packets; nor to heave down, either to caulk or repair, eastward of the bridge, nor to make fast any rope to the heads of the posts, in warping their ships or vessels either in or out of the harbour, but to use only a long bend, that the rope may strain from the bottom. All square-rigged vessels, lying on the outside of tiers, or grounding in the channel, coming up or going down the harbour, must have their lower yards topped up; various other regulations have been adopted, which have all the same object in view.

By an order in council, issued prior to April 1st, 1817, Weymouth inter alia, was allowed to warehouse the following goods therein, before payment of duty; viz., Rice, Tobacco, Wine, Brandy, Geneva, &c., and all prize goods, &c.

Around the quay in heaps appear,
Bales, goods, and various loads of ware;
There the strong porter constantly is seen,
With brawny arm to work the useful crane;
There too resounds the jolly seaman's cry,
As they their handspikes to the windlass ply,
With shouts sonorous, shake the neighb'ring shore,
While they with cheerful souls their ships unmoor.

A contractor also resides here, who supplies the service &c., with all the necessary provisions; the bond alone required for the fulfilment of the contract, is £600.

When James duke of York, afterwards king of England, held the appointment of Lord High Admiral, the following list shows the share of the captures due to him from this port.

Charles II., 1677.

His Royal Highness's tenthes for the followyng shippes, all brought into Waymouth Port, and taken by Reprysal.

(Extracted verbatim.)

A Lyste of Shippes and the Tenthes.

	First Estimate. £ s. d.	Real Value. £ s. d.	Net Tenths. £ s. d.
No. 1. The Holye Ghoste of Havre de Grace, Captn. Abbott, ...	60 00 00	56 07 06	41 01 00
2. The St. Nicholas of Rouen, Captn. Tate, fr. Duke of Richmond, ...	00 00 00	245 01 06	203 11 06
3. The Endraughte of Skildam, Captn. Pyrom, ...	92 00 00	72 06 00	37 01 00
4. The St. Petere of Burdux, Capt, Abbot, ...	22 03 04	18 15 00	3 04 10
5. The St. James of Do., ditto, .	45 00 06	38 04 00	9 06 00
6. The St James of Amsterdam, Captn. Abbot, ...	12 14 09	9 00 00	1 19 00
7. The Anne of Bryges, ditto., ..	00 00 00	40 00 00	34 00 00
			334 03 04
Whereof has been received for two Shippes as by record, .	.....	.....	248 12 06
8. The Mary of Flushyng left 200 Linens with Capt. Atkins for the Duke's Tenthes, the shippe beyng cast away there, ...			85 10 06
9. The Collier taken at Breham for which there are £45. deposited in Capt. Pley's hands until the Duke be petitioned for yt, ...			
So rests still due to his Royal Highnesse more, seld the Shippe Holye Ghoste, ...	00 00 00	114 00 00	11 08 10
		Total,..	96 18 10

21st Geo. II. An act passed for the recovery of, and ascertaining the collection of petty dues and wharfages, payable for exportation and importation of goods into and out of the harbour of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, duties payable

for vessels entering and leaving the harbour, and for repairing and keeping in repair the bridge, harbour, and other public buildings.

The following is the return from the office of registrar general of shipping, April 6th, 1829, of the ports to which the privilege of bonding and warehousing have been extended, and of the number of vessels belonging to each port: viz.,

ENGLAND.

Port.	No. of Vessels.	Port.	No. of Vessels.
London,	3407	Exeter,	204
Barnstable,	40	Gloucester,	234
Boston,	148	Grimsby,	40
Bristol,	297	Ipswich,	135
Chichester,	61	Liverpool	793
Cowes,	146	Milford,	114
Dover,	115	Newhaven,	16
Falmouth,	78	Poole,	166
Hull,	578	Rochester,	244
Lancaster,	106	Rye,	69
Lynn,	117	Shoreham,	40
Newcastle,	958	Southampton,	179
Plymouth,	273	Stockton,	73
Portsmouth,	179	Sunderland,	603
Arundel,	20	Swansea,	118
Bedford,	110	Weymouth,	87
Bridgewater,	47	Whitby,	276
Chester,	75	Whitehaven,	494
Colchester,	249	Winbeach,	44
Dartmouth,	355	Yarmouth,	578

SCOTLAND.

Port.	No. of Vessels.	Port.	No. of Vessels.
Aberdeen,	341	Grangemouth,	201
Dumfries,	172	Greenock,	372
Borrowstonness	130	Leith,	260
Dundee,	283	Montrose,	172
Glasgow	227	Port-Glasgow,	50

IRELAND.

Port.	No. of Vessels.	Port.	No. of Vessels.
Baltimore,	85	Galway,	18
Belfast,	255	Limerick,	35
Coleraine,	6	Londonderry,	24
Cork,	273	Newry,	166
Drogheda,	28	Waterford,	69
Dublin,	278	Westport,	7
Dundalk,	6	Wexford,	139

Weymouth is here entered as having only 87 vessels; this was about the number it had in the reign of Henry VI., at the time of its Newfoundland trade; the number exceeds 100 vessels, and as further proofs of its commerce, there cleared out of this port, from January, 1828, to January, 1829, inclusive, 420 vessels; ditto inwards, 404.

The harbour and ballast dues for 1825, December 4th, were contracted for £665, and for the additional six months, £470 more, total £1135; and in 1827, £1150; and in 1828, for £1225. The salary of the harbour master, is £40 per annum.

THE CHAPELRY.

On the summit of a high hill, at the foot of which the town of Weymouth stands, there formerly was a chapel, from whence the parish derives its name; it now no longer remains, but the boundaries, which are marked out by four stones at right angles; it was a Chapel of Ease to Wyke Regis, its mother church; the ascent to which was by seventy steps, though most every house in High Street had an ascent from their rear to St. Nicholas-Street, so called from its leading to the Chapel, the number of steps that now lead up to the Chapelry and its buildings, amount to 58, they are merely steps cut in the earth, and flat stones placed thereon.

It was dedicated to St. Nicholas,

"Ðe bincoþ Saÿnte Nicholas, whos help ÿs aÿe redie,
"To schipmen ÿn alle can, When Ðe call on aÿe."

as appears by a patent of 20th Henry VI., May 5th, 1442, where the king granted licence to Adam Moleynus, Dean of Sarum, and others, parishioners of Wyke Regis, to found a fraternity or guild in the Chapel of St. Nicholas, in the borough of Weymouth, by the name of the Mayor and Wardens of the fraternity or guild of St. George of Weymouth.

"Principio quod homines mei de Waymue, habeant et teneant Gildam suam, et omnes libertates et consuetudines suas in terrâ, et in marî, ita bene et pacê, et justê, et liberê, et quietê, et honorificê, &c."

Among the extracts from the Liceirce, appears the following, "None shall fail at the setting forth of the procession on Corpus Christi day, on pain of forfeiting one pound of wax, and each brother shall pay six pennies to the procession, and pay yearly."

The associations of early times were called fraternities or guilds, secular and ecclesiastical, the secular guilds included the merchants and tradesmen, and were called "guilda mercatoria," and as the chief towns increased in population, the artizans, dealers, and craftsmen, procured grants for monopolizing the business of their own burgs or cities, although called merchant guilds at first; yet the maintenance of their particular arts and mysteries, were generally mixed with ecclesiastical observances, and they were not considered entirely secular, till after the Reformation. The earliest notice of a guild of tradesmen, appears in a record of a payment of £16 into the Exchequer, in the reign of Henry I. by Robert the son of Lewestan, as the ferme or rent for the guild of weavers of London.

It appears from an entry in the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, that Henry Russell of Weymouth, for which place he was a Representative, in the 3rd, 11th, 20th, and 28th years of the reign of Henry VI., gave some lands here, and other places, to this guild; this is the entry on the subject;

24mo, 25mo, et 26mo Hen. VI.

"Henr. Russell de Waymouth, dedit Iohn Longman, tunc Capello Cantarie, gildi Sancti Georgii de Waymouth, decem et septem messuag., unum toftum, viginti et octo acr., et cum pertinenc. in Waymouth, etiam Knighton, Wooton, Glanville, Portland, et Wyke Regis, in com. Dorset."

Henry Russell of Weymouth, gave to John Longman, then of the Chapel of Canterbury, to the guild of Saint George of Weymouth, seventeen messuages, one toft, twenty-eight acres of land with their appurtenances, in Weymouth, and Knighton, Wooton, Glanville, Portland, and Wyke Regis in the county of Dorset.*

This must allude to lands in the latter places, and not to the places themselves, though it is a little singular, that Wooton and Glanville, are stiled as distinct parishes, whereas the name of the parish is Glanvilles Wooton; there must have been another grant, as there were in the whole, 58 acres of land, and a right of common for 8 oxen granted; these lands appear subsequently to have been granted 2nd Edward VI., to a Richard Randall, and were 50 years back, in the possession of a descendant of that family.

* A Toft was a place where a messuage once stood.

33rd Henry VI. In the Charter Rolls it was valued at £6 13*s*. 10*d*. Here was one chalice of 10 ounces, one large silver cross, one silver cup gilt, two pair of vestments, an altar cloth, value 13*s*. 8*d*., besides vessels, staves, candlesticks, pixes, ampuls, &c.

By an extract from the augmentation office, it appears to have been afterwards the property of John Lord Russell, who 2nd Edward VI., in an answer to a writ of enquiry, returned an income of the lands wherewith it was endowed, amounting to £6 14*s*. 10*d*., all of which was distributed by him to the chantry priest.

1649. The mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgesses, of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in a petition to Parliament, set forth that they had a large and fair Chapel in Weymouth, with two aisles and large galleries, able to contain all the people in both towns, the building whereof cost the inhabitants £1500, and was destroyed during the civil wars, that the bridge is now in decay, and cost £1200, and the harbour filled with rubbish. They petition for £3000 out of the customs or excise, to enlarge Melcombe church, to build a new bridge, and to cleanse the harbour.

1650. The return to a committee of enquiry upon the above petition was, that Weymouth is in the parish of Wyke Regis, and distant about a mile from it, that nothing ariseth therein to the incumbent of Wyke, but the tythes of some gardens, amounting to 40*s*. The rectory of Wyke lately belonging to Dr. Henchman, but now to Mr. Edward Buckler, by order of the committee, the inhabitants of Weymouth are to come to Melcombe church, and Weymouth being a garrison town, and port town, it is not safe for the people to go so far out of town to church, that in Weymouth is a Chapel of Ease, which was wont to be supplied by the ministers of Wyke at pleasure, but in the siege, greater part of it was thrown down, and the repairs of it will cost a great many hundred pounds. It is now altogether converted into a fort, there being horn works, a line of circumvallation, and a platform mounted with guns.

The inhabitants of Weymouth petition Parliament, that it might be made their parish church, and that the state would allow a competent maintenance for a minister, the chapel being fit to be taken from Wyke, and made the parish church of Weymouth, in case the state will re-build the Chapel, or erect some church there, and allow a competent maintenance for a minister in Weymouth, or that Weymouth and Melcombe Regis may be united, and the church of Melcombe be enlarged, which will cost some hundred pounds.

The church yard of Melcombe being very small for a burying place, that the grounds and buildings called Friary, lying ruined, and near adjoining the church, may be made a burial place for both towns, in case Lord Arundell of Wardour, and Richard Uvedale Esquire, who have claims upon it, will consent.

It appears that the frequent applications to Parliament so annoyed them, that they paid little or no attention to them, but appear to have been more successful subsequently.

Since the destruction of the chapel by the troops under the command of Colonel Sydenham, few vestiges of it have appeared, though some few years since, the rector of Wyke had the spot opened in various places, when there appeared indubitable proofs of its having been once consecrated ground, by various portions of decaying mortality being brought to light, and also the foundations of the Chapel were visible.

Accident which frequently exposes what the Historian and the Antiquary have repeatedly sought for in vain, has assisted in confirming this spot; some labourers were engaged November, 1828, in digging a well close adjoining one of its boundaries, about 33 feet below the surface of the ground, the pickaxe struck against a hard substance, the violence of the blows fractured it in twain, but when brought to light, it proved to be a perfect specimen of Gothic architecture, of the fourteenth century; the mouldings and the arch are in a beautiful state of preservation, it apparently formed a part of an angular pillar, or the head of a niche, where an effigy of a Saint, probably Saint Nicholas, might have been deposited; an antique gimlet strongly encrusted with silica, and several stone balls were exhumed; the author descended the well twice, and found the part whence the stone was taken, responded a hollow sound when struck, strongly indicative of a cavern or vault, leading in a direction towards a garden, which was the cemetery for the Chapel, the stone balls might have been either used in the bombardment of the town, or else might have been ejected from the town: Rymer, in his Fœdra, says that the were in use in 1514; one of them is in the possession of the author; various portions of calcareous and testaceous shells were found, and one perfect specimen of the ostrea ædulis, thus strongly indicating the universality of the deluge.

The well is now filled up, and is covered by the floor of a bake house, which owing to the rage of building predominant in this town, is erected over the identical spot; probably in some future age, the same accidental circumstance may again give rise to a wild field of conjecture, it is to be

regretted that the ground in the immediate vicinity was not explored, but consent to that effect, could not be obtained.

The site of the Chapelry has been frequently let as a grazing field, at the rent of 20*s*. per annum: since which period, bands of itinerant vaulters have here amused the *commune vulgus*, and it is now used as a thoroughfare, and is completely intersected by paths: the Chapel when converted into a fort, must have had a commanding situation of both towns, which completely laid at its mercy.

Independent of the discoveries of this portion of the Chapel, some few years since in a ground now used as a pottery, in digging for the clay necessary for the manufactory, the foundations of several houses were observed some feet below the surface, in the immediate vicinage of the Chapelry, which were probably destroyed at the time the Chapel was converted into a fort, and among other relics, the stone basin that was used for the holy water, in a tolerably perfect state, which in Catholic Churches, are generally inserted in a niche in the porch, or else in a convenient situation at the entrance, for the purpose of the devout using it, and it is more than probable other relics might be found if the ground were properly explored: connected with the well is an arched vault, in the rear of the Town Hall, which, though now nearly blocked up, by various concurrent circumstances, evidently appears to have some connection by the position of its situation with the crypt, which the author conceived on his descent into the well was evidently discernible; but from the discontinuance of the excavation, could not be traced to its termination.

It certainly at the present time appears singular, that a parish of 2555 inhabitants should possess a rector, curate, and churchwardens, and yet no Church or Chapel of Ease in it! yet such is the fact; the present rector has endeavoured to procure a Church or Chapel erected on this very spot; he gave a munificent donation of £1000, William Williams, Esquire, M. P., £100, Mrs. Frances Steward, £50, and other individuals offered to take seats in the Church if built, and a long correspondence ensued with the Bishop of the diocese in 1819 on the subject: nothing has been done towards this certainly most desirable purpose; when it is considered the number of its inhabitants, the poverty of the parish, who are £350 in debt, and that not more than 100 are fairly able to pay the parochial and other taxes, and it being the nightly resort and dormitory of all the lower classes of society, who earn their livelihood by working in Melcombe, a new Church is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

3rd Elizabeth. A burgage in the common street on the south side, and half a virgate of land belonging to it, and another burgage, parcel of Binden Abbey, were granted to Ralph Skelton, Esquire, and Edward Warner, Knight, and subsequently was in the possession of the duke of Beaufort.

This place gives the title of viscount to the family of Thynnes, descended from the Botte Villes, a family that came in to this kingdom in the reign of King John, who settled at Bottlefield in Shropshire, and were first called Le Thynne, in the reign of Edward IV.

Thomas Thynne, son of Sir Henry Frederick Thynne, of Long Leat, Wilts, was first raised to the peerage by Car. II., A. R. 34, by the title of Viscount Weymouth, and Baron Warminster, December 11, 1682, with limitation for want of issue male, to his brothers, James, and Henry Frederick, who represented Weymouth in the reigns of William III., and Queen Anne; he was heir to Thomas Thynne, Esq., who was called on account of his wealth, "Tom of Ten Thousand," groom of the bed chamber, to James, Duke of York, with a salary of £200 per annum; he was betrothed to Lady Ogle, heiress to the great Northumberland estates; Count Conings-mark having met with her on the continent, formed the diabolical plan of getting possession of her by causing her intended husband to be shot by hired assassins in his coach in Pall Mall, 1682, though the count himself escaped from the hands of justice, yet he gained not the lady, as she afterwards married Charles, Duke of Somerset. There is a monument in Westminster Abbey, now somewhat defaced, erected to commemorate the event, and which by its containing a representation of the murder, attracts considerable notice; Viscount Weymouth dying 1714, *sine prole*, he was succeeded by the grandson of his brother Henry.

Viscount Weymouth, January 29th, 1689, voted in the house of Lords, that a regency should be appointed when King James had abdicated the crown.

At Long Leat which is a princely seat, stands the stump of the ancient Weymouth Pine, or Pinus Strobus, the mother of that species of trees in this kingdom, it was first planted by Viscount Weymouth in 1696; it had its top destroyed by a hurricane. The soil of that place is so peculiarly favourable to the growth of trees, that the third Viscount is said to have planted during forty years, upwards of 50,000 trees annually. They grow to the height of 100 feet and upwards, and are highly

valued, and in Queen Anne's reign, there was a law made for the encouragement of the growth of these trees.

Thomas Thynne, second Viscount Weymouth, was son of Thomas Thynne, Esq., of Old Windsor, by Mary Villars, daughter of the Earl of Jersey. He married Louisa Carteret, second daughter of Lord Granville, 1733, who, dying in child-bed, December 26, 1736, (Dr. Samuel Bowden wrote a poem on her decease,) made sueh an impression on his mind, that forsaking his splendid mansion for ever, he actually retired to a cottage in an adjoining village, where he remained till his death, in 1751, and was succeeded by his son.

Thomas Thynne was created secretary of state, 1768, and groom of the stall, April 17, 1775; married 1759, Elizabeth Cavendish Bentinck, sister of the Duke of Portland. The administration being then very unpopular, he acquired great notoriety, though it was observed of his lordship, "That he was endowed by nature with the best understanding that almost ever fell to the lot of man," he was created Marquis of Bath, August 18, 1789, and dying 1796, was succeeded by his son.

Sir Thomas Thynne, Bart., Marquis of Bath, Viscount Weymouth, &c., D. C. L., F. S. A., Lord Lieutenant of Somersetshire, married April 24, 1794, Isabella Elizabeth, daughter of Viscount Torrington, and the title of Viscount Weymouth is now borne by his eldest son, Thomas, the present viscount.

MELCOMBE REGIS.

IMMEDIATELY opposite its former antagonist, though now united under one general name, Weymouth, from which it is divided by the river Way, whose stream skirts the rear of the town, while the front is open to the English Channel upon a peninsula, which at high tides has been completely covered by the sea, is situated the beautiful maritime port, municipal town, and now fashionable watering place, MELCOMBE REGIS.

NAME:— The word Melcombe is variously spelt in ancient records, as Melekumb,— Melcumb,— Melcome,— and is derived from Mele, a Mill, and Combe, a vale or flat, (it formerly being distinguished for its mills, which were in existence till the year 1720;) its additional name of *Regis*, King's or Royal, it received from its being built on the demesne lands of the crown, and has so been accounted since the time of Edward I.

The word Melcombe has also been derived by etymologists, from the Hebrew word מֶלֶךְ, Melek,— Meleck,— Rex, King, and Combe, Saxon, a valley or flat; this derivation of the word has certainly in its favour, the stamp of the highest antiquity, even proof of Holy Writ itself, the idol or King of the Ammonites is stiled in the book of Kings and elsewhere, (1st Kings XI. 5 and 33; 2nd Kings XXIII. 13; Zephaniah I. 5.) Melcom, Milcom, and Malcham. The Ammonites who gloried in the beauty and security of their vallies, particularly that of Tophet, which overflowed with milk and honey, (Jeremiah XLIX. 4.) probably adopted Milcom for a similar meaning, thus appropriately designating their idol the King of the Valley. (Isaiah LXVII. 5.)

Faber in his "Mysteries of the Cabiri," roundly asserts Melcombe to be a Phœnician word, and brings authorities from various quarters, among the rest the rhyming monk and antiquary, Robert of Gloucester, who peoples England from the Tyrian stock of Æneas, whose descendant Brut, landing in the west of England, where "gret plente hee finde of fisch as hee went bye ȝe weye," also giants, sons of Anak, he settled in this country, "And aftere Brut ys one nome, he yeleped hyt Breteyne;" the county of Dorset certainly possesses in a most remarkable manner, an immense quantity of what when exhumed, appears to be Phœnician remains, and indeed in the neighbourhood of Melcombe at Kimmeridge, independent of the coal money, there has been found specimens of Samian pottery; that stupendous piece of antiquity, Maiden Castle, was evidently a hill fort (as some of the same specimens have been found there also,) the Greeks invariably occupied hill camps as the heights of Pilæ, Ændæ, Panopææ, Chorosææ, &c., and we find that mount Tabor was of such size, as to afford shelter for 10,000 men, under Barak, Judges IV. 6, Jeremiah XLVI. 18, where also Josephus stood a siege; if not a hill fort, it might have been like the Caph in Purbec, a Pur-a-theia, or mound dedicated to fire worship, 2nd Kings XVI., 4: the patriarch Noah was deified by his descendants, from whose son the isles of the west were peopled, under the name of Merd-dinn or dweller on the sea, and this island was formerly called the garden of Merdinn, and the circle of tumuli that surround it might probably represent Baaltein, or circle of Baal; there are also some tumuli near Lulworth, which are called Yules Kitchen, which is a corrruption of Kist-vaen, a stone chest, typical of the ark, and here the priest of the Helio-arkite deity, performed his mystic rites; Yuleis the vestige of the festival of the winter solstice, and signifies a turning or revolution, where the votaries of fire worship rolled an ignited wheel enveloped in tow &c., down the hill; it is from this circumstance, that we still exhibit such cheerful, blazing fires at Christmas.

It is not a little singular that there is scarcely a hill, promontory, or place of any size, from the Land's End to the Isle of Wight, that might not be philologized in the Tyrian language as Scaol-ead, Scilly, torn asunder, separated; Liassard, Lizard, the high fort; Pinn-seance, Penzance, the old head land; Salt-asse, Saltash, the highest point of the hills; Ta-moir, Tamar, quite a sea; Aill-bin, Alban, the summit of a mountainous heap; Kumar, and the Saxon, ridge, Kimmeridge, a land of uneven surface; Pur-bec, the house of fire, or seat of the sun; Caph-Corfe, a mount dedicated to fire worship; and the

word Coal money, is probably derived from Cal-Col, or Cala, confined or enclosed; all these certainly indicate that a nation quite different from those that afterwards were found there by the Romans, once peopled those spots. The neighbourhood of Meloombe is full of antiquities, the horizon is dimmed by whole groups of tumuli; Celtic, Danish, Roman, and Phœnician remains are frequently brought from their hidden place to the light of day; the footsteps of the peasant tread on the ashes of the brave; the bleating of the sheep, and the bark of the guardian of the flock is now heard, where the vault of heaven was wont to be rent by the agonized moans of the wretched victims of Moloch.

The British Isles were by the ancients considered to be the Insulæ Beatæ, or Islands of the blessed, so famous in classical, and indeed all other mythology; to these blissful abodes, the heathen supposed the souls of the virtuous were conveyed, there to enjoy that fruition of happiness, that their actions merited on earth; these are certainly derived from the traditions they had of Paradise; for the Druids, the Goths, the Romans, Greeks, Egyptians, Hindoos, and all nations indeed, had traces of Paradise incorporated in their rites and worship; their groves so often mentioned in Holy Writ, are symbolical of the garden of Eden; their human sacrifices typical of that sacrifice, by whose blood an atonement for sin was made, and there is no question but that in this neighbourhood might still be found abundant proof of these rites, in those places where even now, traces of them exist.

> "The Druids struck the well hung harps they bore,
> With fingers deeply dyed in human gore;
> And while the victim slowly bled to death,
> Upon the rolling chords, rung out his dying breath.'

HISTORY.

If to ascertain any modern fact or transaction with any degree of precision or truth, be attended with considerable difficulties, we shall not wonder that much obscurity involves those of very remote times, especially when we consider the various revolutions* which this isle has undergone, from the

> * "This island spot of unreclaim'd rude earth,
> The cradle that received thee at thy birth
> Was rocked by many a rude Norwegian blast,
> And Danish howlings scar'd thee as they past."

Roman Invasion to the union of the two roses, and thence to the differences of Charles I. and his parliament, we may indeed wonder, that so many records have survived the repeated ravages; such continual scenes of confusion and civil disorder prevailed as can scarcely be paralleled in the history of any other nation, hence arises the obscurity of the origin and ancient state of our cities and towns, a darkness which the most careful investigation of original records, can scarcely hope to dispel, and yet from these, imperfect as they are, alone must be derived such light to guide us through the long gloomy vista of ages, this must be considered as an apology for any irregularity that might be observed in the ensuing account of this town.

Melcombe itself is not of any very ancient date, as it appears to have been built on ground which has been gained from the sea; there is not the least question, but where the town now stands, formerly the Roman navy cut with their keels, the blue waters of the Atlantic.* The necessary excavations which are required to lay foundations of houses, throw up numerous quantities of loose gravel, and still farther down, the blue lias strata is visible, which also forms the bed of the English Channel; it is more than probable the sea flowed over the Town Marsh to Chickerell Common and over the Preston Beach, where the Lodmoor now is, up to Broadwey, but that the gradual recession of the ocean, the constant deposit of alluvial matter, the formation of land by embanking, the alteration made by ages, have all conspired to render what was formerly water, now land, densely inhabited and still making rapid progress towards further increase of population.

At the time of the Norman survey, Melcombe Regis does not occur in Doomesday Book, though it is not at all improbable but that some part of it might be like what Noah saw when he removed the covering of the ark, "And, behold the face of the ground was dry," for in Doomesday Book, under Wai, (see page 8) it says "Ibi II. molini," *there are two mills*, it was these mills which give name to the town, and are alluded to 17 Caroli 2do; it is likely that "the fountains of the deep were stopped," and that even in those times some part of the land was in existence, and that one of these mills might be situated near that wear, ꝑ þene, as though the stream

*As an illustration of the assertion that Weymouth was known to the Romans, the author has seen a great number of Roman coins, brass and silver, that have been picked up at Chesil beach, after those ground seas, which bring up from the bottom of the dread abyss, convincing proofs of its destructive vortex.

of the Waye, ðe ſrýnym of þ Wæýe, did run ube ab ſee, out to sea, still the locality of Melcombe was better adapted for a mill on one of these banks than Weymouth; there are even now banks, which are formed of the same soil and land, as that on which Melcombe stands — they are called Hassocks.

The Melecumb de Comite de Warrewyk in the hundred of Whiteway there mentioned, evidently alludes to Melcombe Horsey, both in its extent and also from its alluding to the hundred of Buckland Abbas, and moreover from its being considered an appendage of Shaston Monastery; it is more than probable it was included in Radipole, which occurs in Doomesday Book, to which it belonged for several ages after, especially as lands at Kreeketway are mentioned.

It appears that the river Way, was a grand source of contention between the burgesses of Weymouth and Melcombe, each side claiming it as theirs. In the Inquisitiones post mortem, or inquests into the property of persons deceased, appears the following entry on the very subject.

41mo Edvardi III.

"Burgenses de Melcomb Habuerunt medietat aque de Weye inter villam de Melcom et villam de Weymuth."

That the Burgesses of Melcombe have a moiety of water of the Waye between the vills of Melcombe and Weymouth.

It is observable that this stream of the Wye, is alluded to in the charter of Athelstan where he gives the Abbey of Milton "half ſrýnym of þ Wæýe Oub ube ab ſee," though this expressly states it to be given for the purpose of providing for the fat paunches of the goodly Abbot and his fraternity, food, i. e. fish on Lent and Fast-days, as an officer was appointed for that very purpose, peſebunde.

The Salini, Saltpans, or Salterns, ſealbenn, mentioned in Athelstan's charter, and also in Doomesday Book, might either have been where the town of Melcombe now stands, or as it is mentioned in the history of Weymouth, where the town marsh now exists, are worthy to be remarked, that men in that age of comparative ignorance and barbarism, were acquainted with the unusual saltness of the sea water at Weymouth, a peculiarity that the present inhabitants fail to turn to their advantage; here was made all the salt, (which the Saxon inhabitants procured by boiling the water in pans, until a pellicle formed on the surface,) that indispensible article for the abbeys of Milton and Cerne, and the church of Winton.

In the reigns of the Edwards, it appears to have flourished greatly, as in the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, appears the following allusion to it;—

Charta 8vo Edvardi II., page 147.

"Melcomb Burgus, Melcomb Mercat et Feria."

To the burg of Melcombe is granted a market and fair.

This market appears to have been held on Monday, by charter of 8th Edward I., though the abbots of Cerne who were its feudal Lords, had a grant of a market on Tuesday, and a fair on the eve and day of the translation of St. Thomas the martyr, though this fair was to be held on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Botolph.

In the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, is the following, most probably a re-grant, in allusion to the preceding ;—

11mo Edvardi II.

"Melcomb Burgus, Melcomb Mercat et Feria."

To the burg of Weymouth is granted a market and fair.

This, it is quite evident, was granted Monday's market to the burgesses and their successors, and a fair on the feast of the translation of St. Edward, and the two succeeding days.

Though there are these various grants and re-grants of a fair, no such thing exists at the present day, and the market is now held on Tuesdays together with the Fridays granted to Weymouth; the revenues of both markets (which 50 years ago, yielded only £80 per annum, now yield several hundreds, and are let by auction,) are received by the mayor for the time being.

The commerce of the town had so much increased, that Edward II. considered it of sufficient importance to appoint it a staple town for wool, at the time he appointed Weymouth a staple town for wine; the appointment of collectors occur in the abbreviatio rotulorum originalium ;

Anno 4to, Edvardi II.

"Rex assignavit ad colligend. et recipiend. custumum de lanis, etc., Gilberto de Portesham, et Wilhelmo le Mareschale, in portu de Melcomb."

The king appoints for collecting and receiving the customs of wool in the port of Melcombe, Gilbert of Portesham, and William the Marshal.

William le Mareshale it appears was M. P. for Melcombe, 15th Edward II. This circumstance of the wool staple, is a proof of the extensiveness and importance of the trade of Melcombe at this time, for king Edward had but a few years before A. R. 55, 1353, for the better keeping of wool within the realm, in consequence of the wars with France, caused the

statue of staple to be made, which appoints the staple to be held for England in only ten places, and those were the most considerable, such as Westminster, York, Winchester, Exeter, &c., the customary due on each sack of wool, was 40 pence*; this was again re-granted on the appointment of fresh collectors, 8th Edward II., and again the following entry occurs on the subject;—

35mo Edvardi III.

"Rex assignavit ad colligend. et recipiend. custumum de lanis etc., in portu de novo Melcomb, Walter de Frampton, et Johannes Baker."

The king appoints for receiving and collecting the customs on wool in the port of new Melcombe, Walter de Frampton, and John Baker.

These were M. P. for Melcombe, 28th, 31st, 36th, 38th, 42nd, 46th, and 47th Edward III.; an act of Parliament was passed for its being appointed a staple town, probably a re-enactment of one of the above grants.

10th Edward III., 1335. Melcombe, Weymouth, and Lyme, these being considered the only towns in this county of sufficient ability, had orders to send their quota of ships to Portsmouth, the king being on the point of invading Gascony.

In 1348, the great plague which broke out in Cathay in Asia, it appears first made its appearance on the maritime coast of Devon from whence its ravages were communicated to all parts of the kingdom; the pestilential influence was of such a malignant type, that few survived its ravages, the inhabitants of most towns fled into the country; the holy fraternity of monks, friars, and priests, did not escape its influence, as so many had suffered from it, that a chaplain could scarcely be procured, who would serve a church under

*That the woollen manufacture was carried on to a great extent, may be inferred from the following extract, for if the dyer could afford to have a manor, of course the manufacturer of cloth could.

Anno 1201, David the dyer pays one mark, that his manor may be made a burgage, Mad. Hist. Exchequer. The art of knitting stockings, must have been early introduced into Britain, for in Hackluyht's collection, mention is thus made to it by Sir Thybbit Gorges in the interlude of Ella,—

"As Elynour bie the greene lassille was syttynge,
As from the sonnes heat she tarryed;
She sayde, as her whyte hondes whyte hozen were knyttynge
What pleasure yt ys to be marryed."

It appears the king had imposed a duty of forty-pence on each sack of wool exported, besides half a mark, the former duty.

ten marks or ten pounds a year, whereas they so abounded before this period, that an officiating chaplain could be procured for two marks with their diet, but now they would scarcely accept of a vicarage at twenty marks per annum. The Sarum registers from August 8th, 1348, to Lady-day, 1349, contain the admission of seventy incumbents; it continued with unabated rigour till Michaelmas; most of the towns in Dorset suffered; Melcombe and Weymouth came in for their share, indeed the mortality was so destructive, that scarce a tenth part of the people remained alive, in some places scarcely any person was left alive to bury the dead, houses fell down and were never rebuilt.*

In 1604, 3rd James I., it appears Melcombe was again visited with the plague, which according to Bond, destroyed a great number of people; near forty persons were buried at Radipole, six of whom were interred in the common, probably for fear of infecting the neighbourhood.

In the reigns of Henry V. and VI., pilgrimages to various shrines of catholic superstition were very frequent, they began to be made about the middle ages of the church, but were most in vogue after the end of the eleventh century, when nearly every person felt a desire of expiating their sins by a visit to a place that was reputed holy, and there to offer some token of his adhesion to the faith. Kings, princes, nobles, were all following in the same steps, and even the holy bishops, those saintly conscience keepers, made no scruple of being absent from their flocks on the same account; those places that were most visited, were Jerusalem, Rome, Compostella, and Tours.

In every country where Popery was established, pilgrimages were enforced, and indeed in the present day, they are not discontinued; in England the shrine of Thomas á Becket at Canterbury was chiefly resorted to, the steps leading to his shrine, are even now to be seen, worn hollow by the repeated footsteps over them; in Scotland, that of Saint Andrew's, where the body of that apostle is said to be deposited; in Ireland, there are various wells, which are visited, and are said to possess miraculous powers of healing all the ills that flesh is heir to; in Spain, the shrine of Saint James of

* The desolation was so dreadful, that articles of food and animals were sold almost for nothing, viz, a horse worth 40*s*., was sold for 6*s*. 8*d*, a good fat ox, 6*s*., a cow, at 1*s*., a heifer, at 6*d*., a mutton, at 6*d*., an ewe, at 3*d*., a lamb, at 2*d*., and a hog, at 5*d*.; these prices are certainly very low, but the value of money then, compared with what it is now, is about 1 to 15.

Compostella, was visited in great numbers, as it contains the body of that apostle.

In 1428, 7th Henry VI., licences were granted to various ports of England, for captains of vessels to carry devout persons, being the king's subjects, to St. James' Shrine, provided that those pilgrims would first swear "not to take any thing prejudicial to England, nor to reveal any of its secrets, nor carry out with them any more gold or silver than what would be sufficient for their reasonable expense;" among the ports that had this privilege, is that of Weymouth, which included Melcombe: in this year the following are the number of pilgrims that embarked from the various ports, viz.:—

London,	280	Bristol,	200
Weymouth,	122	Dartmouth,	90
Yarmouth,	60	Jersey,	60
Plymouth,	40	Exeter,	30
Liverpool,	24	Ipswich,	20

Total, ... 926 Pilgrims.

The following are the names of the ships that were more especially employed for their conveyance:—

	Tonnes.		Tonnes.
Ye Katherine,	140	Ye Holye Ghoste,	90
Ye Galliotte,	150	Ye Saynte Marye,	110
Ye Marye Batte,	100	Ye Adventrer,	100
Ye Little Nicholas,	120	Ye Dorcette,	100
Ye Pylgryme,	100		

And in 1455, 23rd Henry VI., it appears that James Butler, Earl of Wilts, had licence to visit the shrine of St. James of Compostella, with thirty persons in his suite, "yn ye shyppe caullid ye Sanyte Iago of Waymuthe;" they were all bound to take an oath, similar in condition to the above.

These instances are highly interesting, and showing that at that time this port was considered of some importance, from the number of the vessels employed, and also of pilgrims, which far exceed ports of greater magnitude, for there are frequent allusions mentioned in Rymer's Fædera to licences granted to vessels here for that express purpose, in the reigns of Henry V. and VI.; indeed some of the vessels seem to derive their name from their occupation in this holy adoration.

10th Henry VI., 1433. Under pretence of the country being overrun with robbers, (which was a mere subterfuge,) as the real object in view was the detection of those who

were the adherents of the House of York, for commissioners were empowered to summon and tender an oath to persons of quality to keep the peace, both theirselves and their retainers: the commissioners visited most of the towns in this county; in Melcombe, the only individuals who gave in their names were the two M. P's. for the borough, Philip Leweston and William Corfe, these are stated to be considerable men, and able to disperse £12 per annum, each individual.

Leland gives the following account of it in his Itinerarium, though he confounds its name with Milton Abbas, which is rather singular, as generally speaking he is at all times anxious to be correct.

"Ther ys a Townlet on the hither side of the haven of Waymouth, caullid Miltoun, beyng privileged, and havyng a Mair.

"This town as yt ys evidently seene, hath beene far bygger than yt ys now, the cause of this ys layd onto the Frenchmen, that yn tymes of warre rased thys town for lak of defens.

"For so many houses as be yn ye Town, they be welle and stronglie bilded of stone.

"Ther ys a Chapelle of Ease in Milton.

"The Paroche Church ys a mil of, a manifest token that Milton ys no very old Town.

"Ther was a fare House of Freres in the Est part of the Town; and the chief House of the Rogers in Dorsetshire, was Founder and Patrone of yt.

"Milton stondeth as a Peninsula, by reason of the water of the Haven, that a little above the Town spreddith abrode and maketh a Bay, and by the bay of the mayne se, that gulfith in on the other syde."

In another part of his Itinerarium are the following notes.

"Milton hath beene far bygger than yt ys now, for it hath beene partly rased by the Frenchmen, as a Town without defens.

"Good bilding in Milton;—a Maire in Milton;—a Chapelle, a House of Freres in Milton;—the Paroche Church is a mil of at....."

The following is the account that Camden gives of Melcombe and Weymouth:—"Castrum ab Henrice VIII., extructum quod etiam ingressum portus Weymouth defendit. Oppidulum illud est ad Wey, tenuis fluuioli ostium, cui è regione altera ripa adsidet Melcomb Regis cognominatum, portu tantum divisum, quæ suis seorsim superba priuilegiis, œmula olim fuerunt, nunc autem quod in vtriusque rem sit, Parliamentaria authoritate coaluerunt."

As the Spanish Invasion was at this time expected to take

place, and as it was quite uncertain what part of the coast they might make a descent, it was thought necessary for some well informed person to survey this part of the country; accordingly Sir John Norris was desired to make a survey, and detail his instructions to the court; his advice extracted from the Harleian MSS., 1588, was to the following effect:—

"It was found that between Portland and Lyme, are many places commodious for landing, viz., the entry to Charmouth and Bridport, and the whole coast from two miles beyond Bridport to the Isle of Portland; the whole force of the county amounts to 3000 armed foot, and some light horse; the coast is 35 miles in extent, nor are the landing-places to be strengthened with new bulwarks, and even those made use of, are of no service; the whole force at the approach of the enemy should assemble at Weymouth, except such as are appointed for the guard of particular places, as at Lyme, 60 foot; at Bridport, 20 horse; 100 foot at Portland; 50 foot at Sandesfoot castle; and for the Isle of Purbeck, 200 foot: these forces being assembled are sufficient for a time to prevent any landing in the bay of Portland, the aptest and most dangerous place; for though the bay between the West side of Portland and Lyme, contain many large landing-places, is large and deep, so that a fleet there in any South wind, is neither able to ride or land, the enemy is more likely to land in the bay of Portland, not subject to these discommodities: if he attempts that bay, or any place between Weymouth or Poole, the forces assembled at Weymouth, must march thither. Lyme is commanded by many hills, and not easy to be put into any measure of defence; in the country are divers old intrenched places, which might be made stronger at a small charge, but to little purpose; the rivers in the country are but few, yet many passages and fords make them useless; Dorchester is the best place to make head against an enemy, being six miles from the sea, and equally distant from both of the uttermost points of the sea coast of the county, and there are ancient foundations of a good fortification well fortified, with room for victuals and lodging, and with small charge, might be put into good defence, and receive most part of the county with their goods, and lodge a great army, for Weymouth though surrounded by hills about it, yet the forces of the county arriving before the enemy, it might be defended, and then it would be necessary to make a bridge of boats between the two towns, on the East side of the bay of Portland; some places are of indifferent strength, and might be made to serve for a retreat to the country, and hinder the enemy landing, viz., Corfe Castle, Brownsea Castle, and the towns of Wareham and

Pool; but the fortifications of the last are indifferent, and of no use, except Brownsea were provided with arms and artillery.

"A separation of the forces would be dangerous, for if the enemy should attempt to land at Portland bay, which all think the fittest place, and not to be defended by a few, the forces would not be able to join nor recover Dorchester, therefore the greatest body should be at Weymouth; but if the forces out of the other counties should arrive before the enemy land, 1000 men should be lodged at or near Abbotsbury, and 1000 at Lulworth, to oppose the enemy till more arrive; the horse should be drawn to Weymouth, the general repair for the foot except such as are appointed to watch along the sea coast."

So far Sir John Norris, accordingly orders were issued May 8th, 1588, pursuant to the above instructions, that firing the beacons of Sutton Pointz, Ridgeway or Blackdown* on the approach of the enemy, the forces under the command of Sir John Norris, sheuld rendezvous at Weymouth, and on firing the beacon at Badbury, Sir Henry Ashley was to attend at Badbury down near the lodge, Sir John Horsey at Cerne, Sir Richard Rogers at Milbourne down, Mr. Henchard at Ridgeway beacon, Mr. Strangeways at Frampton, and all to march to Weymouth, Mr. Strangeways to appoint sixty men to guard Lyme, twenty of the trained bands of Bridport, and adjacent places, to watch the sea coasts, and survey the enemy.

John Coker says, "Att this place in the year 1588, the Spanyards with their supposed invincible army, strived to land, but being prevented by the English, betweene them there begun, in sight of all the coast, such a fight, that they were forced to acknowledge their army vincible, and to shifte for themselves, though many hondreds of them came short home, and two of their greate shippes with a Don, brought into Weymouth."

The inhabitants of Melcombe were not deficient in promoting the public safety, for they provided two ships, the John, of ninety tons, and the Reprisal of sixty tons, to serve under the Lord High Admiral, who was about to sail against the armada; the whole extent of the bay was covered with vessels; the English when they arrived off Portland Race,

*Blackdown near Weymouth, was one of the stations chosen by M. Biot, by desire of the board of longitude, and under the sanction of the French and English governments, for the purpose of ascertaining the centripetal force of the earth, September, 1817.

gave over the pursuit. Two of the armada were captured, and brought into Weymouth harbour.

Orders were issued 1598, that Babdown beacon be fired to give notice to the county of Devon, and Milbury beacon to give notice to the county of Wilts, the other orders are missing; at this time the whole fleet of England consisted of only twenty eight vessels, none larger than frigates.

23rd Charles I., 1647. James Crouch rector of Hinton Martell, and John Poller, rector of Great Fontmell, were confined in the common gaol here, and for some time as a still greater security were in the charge of the garrison; while here, probably to relieve the tedium vitæ, they challenged a controversy, or as it is stiled in a small pamphlet, "Certaine Queries concerning the lawfullnes of imposing and taking the Negative Oath, propounded by some ministers under restraints in the Garrison of Weymouth, and answered by E. B. (Edward Buckler,) Minister of Weymouth, and P. J., (Peter Janeway,) Minister of Melcombe Regis." These two were intruders during the distracting state of the Commonwealth; the negative oath was to the following effect:—

"I, A. B., to sweare from my heart, that I will not directly or indirectly adhere unto, or willingly assist the King in this Warre, or in this cause, against the Parliament, nor any forces raysed without the consent of the two houses of Parliament in this cause or Warre. And I do likewise sweare, that my coming and submitting myself under the power and protection of the Parliament, is without any manner of design whatsoever to the prejudice of the proceedings of this present Parliament, and without the direction, privity, or advice of the King, or any of his Councell, or officers, other than what I have now made knowne, So helpe me God, and the contents of this booke."

There were altogether forty eight queries, which were answered of course in favor of the Parliament, they are, many of them, very abstruse, enter into a great minuteness of detail, and highly interesting as illustrating the manners of the age.

Melcombe seems to have suffered considerably during the civil wars, as which ever party procured the predominancy, still the inhabitants were obliged to submit; in the Harleian MSS., is the following:—

"The Lord High Admiral, the Earl of Warwick, did advertize his Excellency the Earl of Essex, that for the more speedy reducing of the West, he would be assistant to him, and to that purpose as he moved by land, he would sail by sea to attend him in his marches; the town of Melcombe being a haven town, was summoned, which understanding that his

Excellency was coming before it by land, and the Lord High Admiral by sea, it presentlie did submit to the noble Sir W. Belfour, who did summon it upon condition that the commanders and officers should go away on horse-back with their swords and pistols, and the common soldiers with staves only in their hands."

At the siege of Weymouth, Melcombe frequently changed masters, for it appears that February 24th, 1645, Colonel Sydenham who commanded in Melcombe, by the benefit of a fair wind, had fired the ships at Weymouth, burnt part of that town, and had re-gained the Chapel fort; this exasperated the Royalists, who determined to be revenged, by attacking the town of Melcombe in several places at the same time, and thus surprize them by a coup de main, but this was frustrated by a deserter who apprized the inhabitants of the intention, and accordingly, when the attack was made, the Royalists were repulsed with great slaughter, though some of the inhabitants let in the Royalists at their back doors, (now where the esplanade and its rows of beautiful houses are erected, thus completely altering the rear of the town to its front,) who forced the besiegers to retreat.

March 5th. Two thousand pounds were ordered by the Parliament to be paid to the officers, soldiers, and sailors, of Melcombe and Weymouth for their services; for a more detailed account, the reader is referred to the siege of Weymouth, page 16.

The ill-fated expedition of the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth, was felt at Melcombe and Weymouth, in the "Western Martyrology, or the Bloody Assizes," is an account of two individuals who were condemned to be executed by that corrupted almoner of justice, Judge Jeffreys; a Mr. Roger Satchel, of Collerton, who was a great admirer of the Duke of Monmouth, and accordingly when informed of the landing of the duke and his adherents at Lyme, immediately joined him there, and continued with him during the whole of his ill-fated efforts to procure for himself the crown of England, which was expected by him that such an event would soon follow, as he was proclaimed king at Taunton. It appears after the defeat of Monmouth, Mr. Satchel wandered through the country, not knowing where to lay his head; he was at last taken at Chard, by three Moss Troopers, who carried him to Ilchester Gaol, and at the bloody assize at Dorchester, took his trial with the rest; great application was made for him, but the Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys refused to listen to it, and accordingly was ordered to be executed here: after his sentence, two of his friends came and told him "there was no

hope," he answered in the true fervour of devotion, "my hope is in the Lord;" the remainder of his time he spent in religious meditations, and the morning of his execution he prepared himself accordingly, and when arrived at the place, the Rev. Robert Hallett, rector of Melcombe, prayed with him and sung a psalm, the clergyman enquired of him "the reason of his joining the rebellion," he answered "had you Sir been there, and a protestant, I believe you would have joined too, but do not speak to me about that, I am come to die for my sins, not for my treason against the king, as you call it;" pointing to the wood that was to burn him, he said, "I do not care for that, or what becomes of my body, so my soul be at rest," after this he prayed to himself for near half-an-hour, and advising some he knew never to yield to popery, his mortal career was soon ended, by his sentence being executed: he appears to have been a man of a brave and courageous disposition, and one well esteemed by his neighbours.

At the same time and place, Mr. Lancaster, of Bridport, another adherent of the Duke's, was also sentenced to be executed, who appears also to have been a man of great fortitude and resignation, for at the place of execution he said, "I die for a good cause, and am going to a gracious God, I desire all your christian prayers, 'tis good to go to Heaven with company; I regret not being with the Duke, whom I trust Heaven will still prosper."

It appears that the declaration of the Duke of Monmouth, wherein he proclaims and declares war against James, Duke of York, as a murderer and assassinator of innocent men, a traitor to the nation, and a tyrant over the people, styles himself the Head and Captain General of the Protestant forces of the kingdom; engages to preserve and promote the protestant reformed religion in these kingdoms, that the subjects may have a free exercise of it in opposition to popery, and the consequences thereof, tyranny and slavery, and winds it up by putting his trust in the Lord of Hosts, in whose name he goes forth, and to whom he commits his cause, and refers the decision between him and his enemies in the day of battle, and the Lord do that which seemeth him good," was stuck up in this town, by some adherents of the Duke in the night; this of course engaged the peoples attention in the morning when it was discovered, but were unable to read it; accordingly they brought it to William Wiseman, a lad of fourteen years, an apprentice to a barber at this place, who, probably like most persons of his calling, at all times willing to make themselves heard, and being infected with the "cacoëthes loquendi," immediately read it aloud to the assembled multi-

tude, probably as he proceeded he enlarged on the different topics, for when Jeffreys came on his bloody tour, he ordered this lad, for this very transaction, to be whipt through all the market towns in Dorsetshire; this was accordingly performed at Dorchester, and when in consideration of his age the gaoler performed the operation with as little severity as he could, a clergyman of the name of Blanchard, informed the gaoler that "he would do his business for him with the Lord Chief Justice, for shamming his sentence in not whipping the boy half enough;" the gaoler exasperated at his interference said, "you talk of the cruelties of the popish priests, but commend me to a Church of England priest for cruelty, they are like the country justices, who wont believe a man is burnt in the hand, unless they can see a hole through it:" whether this clergyman made any complaints or not is very uncertain, but an information was given to Judge Jeffreys, and the boy was ordered to be whipt again the morrow following that day, which to please this ill-named minister of peace and barbarous monster of justice, was executed to that degree of severity, that the boy was reduced to such a low state of illness that his life was despaired of. After Jeffreys had left the county, he was whipped through the town of Melcombe and here his sentence terminated.

The Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme, Thursday, June 11th, (Old Stile) 1685, where he began recruiting his forces, which amounted to about 5000 foot, his career was not very brilliant, for rashly venturing to engage the forces of the Duke of Albemarle on the 4th of July, when he had no horse to support his infantry, and only four pieces of ordnance, a total discomforture of his army completely overturned his schemes of ambition, as three detachments of horse had been sent to Minehead, to bring cannon to him the very instant the Duke imprudently engaged the forces opposed to him; their absence seriously affected the battle of Sedgemoor; the unfortunate Duke fled with a few friends intending to escape at Poole, but was discovered in a ditch covered with fern, near Horton, and upon an attainder of high treason, was decapitated on the 15th July on Tower Hill; the field where he was discovered has since become a source of public attraction, and numerous have been the incisions made in the trees, to memorialize the visits of the curious; the author has frequently visited the spot, which is covered with immense quantities of fern &c. as it was then.

Thus suddenly terminated the ill-fated expedition, for independent of the decided superiority regular trained troops must necessarily have over those that are raw and undisciplined,

Monmouth had to encounter superior numbers, his troops, were indifferently armed, and the nobility and gentry never joined his standard, and without their concurrence and assistance, such designs must always be frustrated.

King James forgetting the godlike principle of the crown mercy, resolved to be revenged upon those in the West who had countenanced Monmouth, let loose upon them one of the most unprincipled ferocious miscreants that ever disgraced the annals of English Judicature, Jeffreys, who with Kirke and his lambs carried havoc and destruction where ever they went. It is imagined that near 3000 individuals were either hung, burnt, or slain by the sword: this may truly be called sacrifice and not mercy.

At this time there were also various individuals who were ordered for execution by these dæmons upon Green Hill, then probably in the limits and jurisdiction of this town, but now, by the apathy and negligence of the conservators of the place, claimed by another parish; those unfortunate persons were among some of those who proclaimed Monmouth, and hailed his approach, as the harbinger of their deliverance from the tyranny of popish mummery, but by his sudden overthrow, fell into the hands of their sanguinary judges, and expiated by their life, their adherence to James, Duke of Monmouth.

11th George III. An act of parliament was obtained for making a turnpike road from Dorchester through Melcombe (over the old bridge,) and Weymouth, to Portland Sands; to Chickerell, Osmington, and Winterbourne, through Upwey, and in 1782, another act was passed for taking in the road from Osmington to Warmwell, and also for renewing the former act.

In 1776, an act was obtained for the lighting, watching, and paving the streets, footpaths, and other places, within the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis; for removing encroachments of all kinds, and thatch from all the buildings; this last was of very necessary importance, as from the inflammable state of such materials, destructive fires had very frequently ensued, and during the contest in the civil wars, it had frequently been fired by the shots of the besieging army. There is not now one house in the whole town that is thatched.

Though Melcombe and Weymouth were formerly in a very flourishing state, yet the various losses sustained by the "Marchant Adventrers," since the time of the maiden queen, the removal of the wool staple to Poole, the great poverty brought upon the town by the Newfoundland trade being taken away, the injury received during the civil wars, by fires

irruptions of the French, the neglect of public spirit, private animosities, engendered by feuds among the corporate body, &c., all combined together to render the towns the scene of desolation and poverty: about the beginning of the last century, it was in a truly deplorable condition, and scarcely any idea can be formed of the general devastation and depression that every where prevailed; houses were of little value, and purchasers could scarcely be procured at any rate; the streets were deserted, and those tenements which in times by gone, were wont to be the scene of mirth and revelry, then, the lonely step of the wanderer, scared from their concealment, the owls, bats, and other midnight prowlers; the population had dwindled to a mere nothing, and indeed no person could venture to patrol the streets, without being in imminent danger of burying their bones among a mouldering heap of dust; the rolling wheel of a carriage proved a source of intense attraction, the shipping had dwindled to a mere nonentity, commerce and trade had disappeared, and when the wants of the few inhabitants required any replenishment, they were obliged to procure them from the county town: as the old tenements fell down, the poor erected to theirselves out of the ruins, "a local habitation and a name," but in such a heterogenous manner, as entirely to destroy all architectural proportions; the inhabitants consisted chiefly of smugglers (who carried on their dangerous traffic without scarcely the least molestation,) and fishermen, who hauled their seynes, where, now the young and lovely fair ones court health on the beautiful Esplanade; that part which is now called the Parade, was the spot chosen by the then wise men of the town, to throw all their rubbish, and bore the name of the Mixen; the taste of the inhabitants at this time must have been singular, as they evidently were unable to appreciate the beauty of the Bay: the sea flowed at one time as far into the town as the Friary Grounds, and at high tides, "a rush of mighty waters" was heard through the lanes, towards the backwater:—but with all this desolation as a maritime and commercial port, a brighter prospect was in the womb of time, for Melcombe, under the metamorphosed appearance of a watering place, shone, by the paternal and fostering hand of our good old king, as a bright star in the galaxy of fashion; it rose high in the estimation of the faculty, as the spot where Hygeia had set her court, but a gentleman of Bath it must be acknowledged, is to be considered as the individual who first brought it into repute as a watering place; being advised to use sea bathing, he had a machine constructed for his own use, and finding considerable benefit to ensue, strongly recommended the place, which gradually induced others to resort to it, and

to H. R. H. the late Duke of Gloucester, who having also received considerable benefit from the tonic effect of the bathing, and the invigorating breezes of the air, built a house called "Gloucester Lodge," to which he invited his late majesty, at that time reovering from his first and alarming illness: accordingly their Majesties and the Royal Family, in the year 1789, June 30th, first honoured this place with a visit, and after eleven weeks residence, and experiencing considerable relief, on the fourteenth of September, they returned to Windsor.

The next Royal Visit was in the year 1791, when the same happy and beneficial effects were experienced; since which period His Majesty or some members of the Royal Family, were wont to visit these towns, either for the benefit of their body, or for relaxation of the mind.

The visits of the Royal Family necessarily drew in their train all those individuals who only exist in the air of courtly residence, or bask in the sunshine of princely favour, and families who wished to have an opportunity of witnessing Royalty, throwing aside its trammels, and unbendiug itself from the toils and cares that are so intimately connected with it.

His Majesty visited the principal residences of the nobility and gentry in the county, and felt himself considerably invigorated in health.

This influx of visitors completely put the inhabitants, who had been retrograding, on the "qui vive," a stimulus was given to building, commerce once more resumed her station at this port, industry applied itself to erect edifices, suitable for the residences of the noble and the opulent; a strong wall enclosing a great deal of what was once sand and sea, was erected, and the space thus taken from the Bay, was converted into a beautiful semicircular marine walk, of thirty feet wide, and one mile in length, called the Esplanade; speculation was afloat, and the natives at last began to think, that the rear of their houses should be converted into their front; land which before was considered not worth enclosing, was now anxiously sought after,* and whole rows of handsome and beautiful houses were erected, which have since been considerably increased in number and size, on spots hitherto, where the browzing kine chewed the cud, or Neptune with his trident and train of Tritons, sportively rode on the bosom of the rolling surges; the natural influx of wealth, produced wants, which were before unknown here;

*In 1740, the half of Charlotte Row was offered to an individual, if he would enclose the remainder which he declined, considering it as a bad spec!!!

the necessity and expediency of public accommodations were immediately felt: Mr. Sproule, of Bath, offered proposals for building a Hotel and Assembly Rooms, on a large scale, at an estimated expense of £6000, which was acceded to, and defrayed by tontine shares of £100 each, an arbiter elegantiarum was chosen, bathing machines were built, hot baths erected, and indeed the town completely underwent a metamorphosis, for those who came hither in search of health, found the goddess propitious to their prayers, and returning to pay their vows, brought beauty and elegance in their train. Through the intercession of their parliamentary burgesses, acts of parliament were obtained for enclosing waste lands, repairing the streets, (which before this were merely lanes, full of deep ruts, and overgrown with long tufted grass,) lighting and watching the town, all proofs of a different stimulus being excited into action, by these frequent visits of the royal, the noble, and the opulent of the land, since which period, no want of public spirit has been shown to invite visitors, and those beautiful birds of Paradise, who just pop down to a fashionable watering place, court the embraces of Neptune, by a few briny immersions, and arise renewed, invigorated, and refreshed.

The Lodge originally built by the Duke of Gloucester, was purchased by His Late Majesty, but finding it still small, four houses immediately adjoining, were added to it, and thus, a comfortable, though not a superb residence, was obtained for the Royal Family: it was here on the Esplanade, that the father of his people made that noble and truly paternal declaration, "That it is my wish that every poor child in my dominions, should be taught to read the Bible."

In one of His Majesty's excursions in this neighbourhood, during the hay harvest, he passed a field where only one woman was at work, His Majesty asked her "where the rest of her companions were?" she with much naiveté replied "they were gone to see the King," "and why did you not go with them?" rejoined His Majesty, "I would not give a pin to see him!" replied the woman, "besides the fools that are gone to town to see him will lose a day's work by it, which is more than I can afford to do, for I have five children to work for;" "well then" said His Majesty, putting some money into her hands, "you may tell your companions who are gone to see the King, that the King came to see you."

During his sojourn here, he was very much pleased with the naval excursions, and enjoyed this recreation repeatedly, and while on deck, frequently with the glass, watched with intense interest, the distant objects which indicated the passing sail.

During one of these marine trips, His Majesty was conversing with Capt. Douglas, of the Southampton, when the lieutenant of the watch, agreeable to a nautical custom, informed the Captain, "that it was Twelve o'Clock," "make it so" replied the Captain, meaning thereby to order the bell to be rung for the close of the nautical day, and the commencement of a new one; the King seemed much struck with this, and in a very pointed manner said to the Captain, "you, sir, possess more power than I do, I cannot make it what time I please."

So little did the royal party pay in general any attention to present comfort, that on one occasion the whole of them returned from their marine trip, with a complete ducking, for the wind blew at the time a strong gale, with a heavy sea, and the rain was descending in torrents; their Majesties would not allow the awning to be spread, but seemed actually to enjoy the scene, and landed in the highest spirits, and laughing at each others wet jackets.

On the 6th of August, 1789, being on board the Southampton, on a cruize in the offing, the royal standard flying, &c., a large American, proudly displaying her thirteen stripes, thought proper to pass close to the Southampton, under a press of sail, not deigning to pay even the customary salute to a Man of War, of lowering her topgallant-sails; of this insult it was judged improper for the Southampton to take any immediate notice, but the Magnificent instantly made sail after the rude Columbian, and having fired a shot a head of her, she thought proper to make more than the necessary reparation, by lowering both topgallant-sails and topsails, as a mark of deference.

On another nautical trip, one of the sailors fancied himself gifted with Parnassian fire, and wrote a song, which was sung before His Majesty, to his great amusement, to the tune of one of their hornpipes: the following is a specimen of this elegant effusion of the Nautical Muse;

"Portland Road the King aboard, the King aboard,
Portland Road the King aboard,
We weigh'd, and sail'd from Portland Road.

The King he sat with a smile on his face, a smile on his face,
The King he sat with a smile on his face,
To see the after guard splice the main brace.

The Princesses sat upon the skids, upon the skids,
The Princesses sat upon the skids,
To see the middies play with the kids, &c."

A court was also held here, in consequence of the partial change of the ministry, and for the purpose of proroguing parliament, from the 11th of August, to the 29th of October.

In another visit here, His Majesty relieved a man who had been incarcerated in Dorchester Gaol above seven years, by paying the debt of £220, and thus restoring him to the joys of liberty.

Some fears were excited for the safety of His Majesty's person on this coast, as there were some apprehensions that there would be an invasion; the King himself was not so intimidated, and it would have been no mean triumph for the ruler of France to declare, that the King of England was afraid to visit the coast on account of the terror which his preparation for invasion had excited; the King relied on the energies of the country, and the loyalty of the people, and when he stood on the Esplanade, and saw the British flag flying on board an English Man of War, the pride of a Briton rose in him, felt secure in his own strength, and in the justness of his cause, and laughed at the threats of his boasting enemy.

He devoted his Sundays to a close attendance on Melcombe church, and the evenings, if the weather was at all tolerable he was sure to be seen on the Esplanade conversing with the nobility and gentry and testifying his pleasure at being seen by the crowds who generally flocked from all parts of the country on a Sunday, with the sole view of seeing their Sovereign.

It was however a frequent subject of regret to His Majesty, that the curiosity of the crowd often exposed individuals, and especially children, to imminent danger; on one occasion, on the Royal Family going to the pier-head to embark, a child was run over by a careless servant, and considerably hurt. The King who witnessed the transaction, severely reprimanded the servant and ordered that the child should have every surgical and domestic comfort administered to him.

The King was one evening in the Royal box at the theatre, when the dispatches announcing the capture of a French frigate was delivered to him; which on receiving, he ordered to be publicly communicated, Rule Britannia was called for, and sung by the whole house, with true national feeling.

One morning His Majesty was delighted by the demonstration of loyalty from two waggons, which laden with female peasantry, stopped opposite the Royal Lodge; the women immediately struck out, "God save the King," with great gusto, and finished it bareheaded, and drenched with rain, the

close of which was accompanied by three hearty huzzas, which was listened to by the Royal Family with great condescension.

His Majesty witnessed the performance of Divine Worship on board the Man of War, an awning was spread over the quarter deck, whilst the flags of all nations were suspended from the post to the mainmast, completely enclosing the place like a large apartment; the binnacle was fitted up as an altar, and served as a pulpit; on the starboard side chairs were placed for their Majesties, and on the larboard the nobility and suite; in the midships sat the officers, behind whom were the ship's company, seated on forms, erected out of the capstan bars placed upon match-tubs &c., so as to form a gradual elevation like the pit of a theatre; the great uniformity of appearance, the attention and solemnity observed, were awful, and did much credit to every man on board, whilst the Sovereign seemed to feel the full force of the scene. After the service, the Royal party visited the tars at their dinner, and enjoyed the rude mirth of these sons of Neptune.

On another occasion the news of a naval victory gained by Lord Nelson over the French at the mouth of the Nile, was brought to him whilst taking a ride on the adjoining down, and not having the key of the despatch box with him, was obliged to be content with a verbal account until his return to the palace, where he was met by the Queen and Princesses; after reading them, the King with his accustomed good humour, and no doubt with some store of patriotic pride, walked through the streets, speaking to every one he knew, and relating all the particulars of the good tidings; the ensuing day was spent in a nautical excursion, when every possible honour suitable to the occasion, and the Royal Family, was paid and on the return of the party in the evening, all the troops in the town and vicinity, which were not a few, were drawn up to receive them on the sands, when a *feu de joie* was fired as the yachts neared the shore.

A peasant who had heard it mentioned that the King's arms were a Lion and an Unicorn, determined to have his curiosity gratified and accordingly came into Weymouth on purpose to see whether this assertion were true or not, and finding that the King's arms were like other men's, could scarcely be restrained from venting his ire on those who had so deceived him.

When the San Fiorenzo, which had been ordered to attend his Majesty, arrived off the Port, the King hastened down to the pier to receive the Captain, (on his arriving on shore to to pay his respects) in the most friendly and cordial manner, congratulated him in not receiving any damage when the ship grounded; a midshipman in the boat having formerly been

introduced to his Majesty, the King instantly recognized him saying, "Well Georgy I am glad to see you my lad, and am happy to find your brave companions all safe."

The partiality of the King for the Navy was certainly very great and on one occasion during his sojourn at Weymouth, he appeared to take great satisfaction in it, the despatch of the capture of a French frigate was brought to him, while at the Theatre, its contents were instantly communicated to the audience, the National Anthem was loudly called for, which was performed with a degree of feeling rarely witnessed, and in which his Majesty participated.

The King frequently visited that sublime and sea girt Isle of Portland, and inspected the Quarries and the other natural curiosities of the place, he appeared much pleased at the bold manly look of the descendants of the ancient Baleares, having received every demonstration of attachment and loyalty from every one of the hardy race, he dined at the Portland Arms, where the mistress pleasing him by the peculiar flavour of a particular pudding, he honoured her by allowing it to be named "The Royal pudding," which is now generally made for those visitors who frequent the Isle.

It was at Weymouth that the various members of the Royal Family enjoyed that retirement from the cares of their exalted station, and partook of the comforts of the domestic circle, affording to all classes, an example of the serenity to be found within the sphere of private enjoyment.

The late lamented Princess Charlotte frequently visited her Royal Grandfather at Weymouth, who was greatly pleased with her affectionate attachment to him, which indeed was reciprocal, for on her arriving once whilst he was walking the Esplanade, he ordered her carriage to stop that he might welcome her, and seemed proud to show her to the surrounding populace; subsequently she was recommended by her medical attendants to visit Weymouth, for the benefit of her health; and during her sojourn here, strongly endeared herself to the inhabitants, by the affability of her manner, and the truly British-like spirit she evinced in her nautical expeditions, the Zephyr sloop of war, Captain Creek, was appointed to attend her for the short cruizes she might wish to make; as the sloop always carried the royal standard of England, every other vessel pursuant to naval etiquette, were obliged to bring to; in one of these cruizes, the Leviathan, 74 guns, Captain Bligh then carrying Mr. Canning to Lisbon, sailing near, brought to, and fired a salute to the Royal standard, shortly after Mr. Canning and Capt. Bligh came on board to pay their respects, to H. R. H., she received them on deck, and after the usual ceremonies, observed to Captain Bligh, "yours

seems a fine ship of war, I should like to go on board her." Her aged tutor, Dr. Fisher, Bishop of Salisbury, (whom she always treated with a degree of nonchalance truly British,) endeavoured to persuade her not to go, but in vain, go she would, and go she did; the necessary preparations were made, and H. R. H., followed by her suite, went into Captain Bligh's barge, and were rowed alongside the Leviathan; H. R. H. refused to be hoisted on board in the chair of state, but to the delight of the tars, actually ascended the ship's ladder with alacrity; her example was followed by several of her suite, but as she observed, "The bishop and the ladies should be hoisted on board in the Chair," which was accordingly done; after the officers had been severally introduced, H. R. H. proceeded not only to inspect the state cabin, but every birth, cockpit, store, powder magazine, holds, &c., between decks, and below, and expressed much surprise at the strength and space of the ship, and remarked, "That such noble structures might well be called the wooden walls of Old England." After having graciously thanked Captain Bligh, and presented him with a purse of money, to be applied to the use of the crew as a token of her respect, she descended the ship's side as before, under a royal salute, and the more gratifying cheers of a loyal and hearty crew of a British Man of War.

Anno 50th, Geo. III., October 25th, 1809. The National Jubilee was here observed with every demonstration of loyalty and the Inhabitants willing to show practical proof of their attachment to his majesty, erected by public subscription, a monument, (the foundation stone was laid by the enlightened craft with masonic honours,) to commemorate the circumstance; it is a plain structure, on which the statue of his majesty nine feet high stands, and in the front is inscribed, "The *grateful* Inhabitants To GEORGE THE THIRD On His entering the 50th Year *Of His REIGN*," and in the rear, the resolutions passed on its erection.

Various other members of the Royal Family have visited this place; but at the death of His late Majesty, the Royal Lodge was by order of the present King, sold by public auction July 19th, 1820, for £4000, it was purchased by W. Young, Esq., whose relict now occupies it; at the same time the Royal pew in the church, containing twenty one sittings, was sold for £220 10*s*., being ten guineas each seat. The household property was also purchased at an enormous price, each piece being looked upon as a relic of departed Royalty, as since which period, the Royal Family have not intimated any inclination to re-visit this place as a residence. It is now the resort chiefly of those who wish to invigorate their systems by bathing in a spot which cannot be equalled by any place

in the empire, for the security of the sands, the translucent state of the water, and for the comfort and convenience of the bathers.

At the necessary removal of old houses for the building of the new bridge, various articles which had been hid for many years were brought to light; in one old house a very handsome highly gilt brass crucifix of about four inches long, was found, once the property of a pious devotee to the church of Rome; in another, the following inscription was discovered, painted on the walls, though covered over with many coats of mortar, &c.

"God saue our Queene Elizabethe,
God send hir happie dayes;
God graunt her grace to
Persevir in his most holie wayes."

A. Dom. 1577.

There were also various quotations from scripture upon the walls, there is a tradition that this house was once the council house of Melcombe, and in which the charter of queen Elizabeth was granted to the town, (the above date, certainly, is shortly after that event,) it is moreover stated, that it was also used as a state prison during the civil wars. There have been frequently observed in pulling down old tenements, various tokens of a religious character, chiefly in inscriptions to the Deity, and of a devout resignation to the will of Divine Providence. Like other towns there are not wanting houses that are frequented by nocturnal wanderers, who as report says, are compelled to visit in their ghostly capacity, the place, where, whilst inhabitants of this nether orb, their crimes or their misfortunes rendered familiar to them; or if any individual, who from a labouring condition in life appeared to be in rising circumstances, it was immediately stated that he had found a box, or some other receptacle of money, and many are the ridiculous stories that are in circulation upon this point: that coins and money have been found, is not at all improbable, for at the time of the civil wars and the contests between the rival roses, individuals would naturally feel anxious of their worldly pelf, and as at those times, those convenient improvements of modern life, banking-houses were not in vogue, to secrete in some place what they possessed, would be the natural impulse of the mind, indeed, a large quantity of silver was found secreted under some slabs at the time the present bridge was erected, (vide page 94,) when the many versions gave rise to a report that "a power of money" had been found, numbers rushed to the spot, a general scramble ensued, and "catch who can" was the order of the moment.

"Now in the streets and lanes with dreadful fuss,
Men, women, boys, the matter do discuss;
Whose was the wealth? by what king was it coined?
How old the dates? by whom was it purloined?

Some from their sides, the massy pieces draw,
These old and black, and those without a flaw;
From Bessie queen, to second Charlie's reign,
By date arranged they from the pockets drain."

There was no possibility of ascertaining the quantity of coin thus fortuitously found; but from the best calculation it is imagined, that there was at least a bushel. Some of the pieces were black with age, others appeared to have never been in circulation, while the remainder bear evident tokens of the polish of circulation; there have been, and still are found, coins of the countries which Weymouth and Melcombe Regis chiefly traded with, viz. Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

The morning of the 23d of November, 1824, Melcombe was nearly swept from the face of the earth by a tremendous and terrific hurricane, the wind howled in yelling gusts, the sea roared in a most horrible and frightful manner, the elements of strife mingled in appalling collision, and nature seemed determined to stamp upon the scene, the fiat of an invisible and omnipotent power.

"Huge uproar lords it wide,"

"Here hostile elements tumultuous rise;
And lawless floods, rebel against the skies,
Till hope expires, and peril, and dismay,
Wave their black ensigns on the watery way."

"O'er the scene while pale remembrance weeps,
Fate, with fell triumph rides upon the deeps."

"'Twas a rough night——
My young remembrance cannot parallel a fellow to it."

The sea broke over the narrows in a strong and dreadful current, two individuals who were at that moment crossing the spot were swept away, "and the end of anguish knew," whole rows of houses that fronted the foaming, raging, billows, were completely inundated; the pride of Melcombe, its beautiful esplanade, was nearly all demolished, the stone posts and chains, (which amount now to 336 stone posts, and 4620 feet of iron chain,) were rent up and entirely broken, the piers (over which the surges rolled in an awful and sublime manner) also were demolished, vessels, boats, and small craft, were

either driven into the centre of the town, sunk, destroyed, or carried out to sea; on the esplanade is cut in two of the posts, the following allusion to it :—

ESPLANADE DESTROYED BY A TEMPEST NOVEMBER 23RD 1824.	REBUILT BY R. VINING BUILDER APRIL 23RD 1825.

The danger in which the front of the town stood, was appalling, the whole of the roads and streets were covered with the rolling billows, driving impetuously masses of sand and stone, boats were observed floating in close approximation with vehicles of various descriptions, such a scene of devastation and ruin were never remembered to have been observed before; orders were speedily issued for the reparation of the town, the walls were erected in a more secure manner, and soon the scene of destruction was followed by one of perfect security.

The Manor.

The MANOR of Melcombe is of very limited dimensions, though there is abundant evidence to prove that in times bye gone, the manor extended considerably above the turnpike, but now it only includes the ground upon which the town is erected; the various encroachments made by different proprietors of these lands, the grants and re-grants of and to the Abbeys of Cerne and St. Swithin of Winchester, the parcelling and allotting of lands to different tenants, the junction of the manor to the adjoining one of Radipole, and as they were frequently held by the same feudal lords and more especially under the same ecclesiastical jurisdiction, render it a difficult task to point out the exact limits and precincts of the manor.

The early history of this manor appears to be surrounded with a degree of perplexity and ambiguity, that renders it a a difficult task to elucidate it. In the archives of the Chapter at Winchester, is the following entry on the subject:

"Ex libello donationum Wintoniæ Ecclesiæ."

Anno incerto, circiter 1110.

"Priori et Convent St. Swithini Wintoniæ, Henricus I. Rex, dedit portus Waimue et Melecumb cum totis pertinentibns, etiam maneriis Wikes et Portlond, habeant et teneant omnes libertates, wreccas, et consuetudines suas in terra et in mari, ita bene, et pace, et juste, et libere, et quiete, et honorifice, sicut habuerunt tempore regis Sancti Edvardi."

Henry I. gives to the prior and convent of St. Swithin of Winchester, (no date, but probably about the year 1110,*) the ports of Waymouth and Melcumbe, with all its appurtenances, and also the manors of Wyke and Portland, that they might have and hold all their liberties, wrecks, and all free customs, by sea and by land, peaceably, justly, and honourably, the same as they were accustomed to do in the time of Edward the Confessor.*

This grant is again renewed by Henry the second, as the subjoined extract shows :—

"Ex Archiv. et cap. decan. Winton."

Anno incerto, circiter, 1160.

"Henricus rex confirm. ad Priori et Convent. St. Swithini, Wintoniæ, portus Waimue, et terr. extent Melecumbe, quod ad maner Wyk pertinent, habeant et teneant omnes libertates, wreccum* per omnes terras suas super mare, et consuetudines suas, et terra, et in mare, ita bene, et pace, et juste, et libere, et quiete, et honorifice, sicut habuerunt tempore sancti Edwardi."

King Henry renews to the Prior and Convent of St. Swithin of Winton, the Port of Weymouth and the lands of Melcombe, which belongs to the manor of Wyke, that they might have and hold all their liberties, wrecks, and all free customs, by sea and by land, freely, quietly, justly, and honorably, the same as they were wont to do in St. Edward's time.

In the reign of Henry II. the number of the monks and their opulence were enormous, and the wanton luxury in which men professing poverty, openly rioted, was scandalous, and totally opposed to the common sense of mankind. The table which was kept by the holy fraternity of Canterbury, consisted regularly of sixteen covers or more, of the most costly viands, and these were dressed with the utmost "goute," so as to excite the sensual appetite and please the delicate palate of these "Friars of orders grey." Their taste in the articles of wines, "de gustibus non est disputandum," was equally curious,—sack, claret, malmsey, mead, and other luscious liquors floated the delicate "morceaux" down the "æsophagus," they rejected, as only fit for their vassals or the poor illiterate hearers of these "ghostly fathers," the potent juice of Sir John Barleycorn. The holy lords of these towns were not a whit behind their Saintly brethren of Canterbury, they were equally good judges of the gastronomic art; they loved the delectable pleasure of tickling an oyster to death by sliding

* Rights of wreck mean that when a vessel perishes at sea or is destroyed on the shore, and no living being escapeth alive out of it, in this case all the goods, &c., that might be saved, belong to the king, or to such person as the king has granted the rights of wreck; but if any individual was alive, and the owner, within a year and a day, should claim whatever might have been saved, they were to be given him; from the numerous coins, &c., that are annually thrown up on this part of the coast, the rights of wreck could have been no indifferent revenue to the monks of Cerne and Wilton.

it softly, smoothly, silently, and securely, and then suddenly slipping it through the gasping, longing, throat of a devoted gastronomist. At one of the visits of Henry the II. to his nephew, the Bishop of Winton, the Prior and Monks of St. Swithin, threw themselves at his feet, and with a flood of tears, solicited his kind and powerful intercession with the Bishop, to whom they were subject as their Abbot, who had retrenched (probably he was a radical reformer), from them three of their usual number of dishes. "How many," says the king, "have you now?" Ten! was the astounding reply. The king answered that he had but three, and imprecated a curse upon the bishop, if he did not instantly reduce them to the same number. Therefore, like certain honourable members in St. Stephen's chapel, they gained nothing by their motions.

In the reign of Edward I., it appears to belong to the Abbey of Cerne, but how it came into their possession, or who gave it to them, it is not possible from the apparent descrepancies, in the various grants and re-grants, to elucidate, whether the earl of Moreton, who had as Domesday-Book testifies, and also the Testa de Neville, held some lands at Cerne, and this place being a member of Radipole, William might have given it, when he alienated the lands to him, which grant the church of Winton, at the death of Robert Earl of Mortaign, which occurred about the year 1090, might claim, and that the abbey of Cerne, might in Henry the Third's reign, have sufficient influence to recover it again, as in the Rotuli Hundredorum, or Hundred Rolls, in answer to a commission of inquiry into certain liberties and rights possessed by various towns, communities, lords of manors, &c., is the following conclusive extract.

Anno 8vo Edvardi I. 1280.

"Juratores dicunt quod abbat. elect Cernel tenet comm. pastur inter maner Melcome et Rapple."

The commission of inquiry declare that the Abbot of Cerne possessed the rights of common pasturage, between the manors of Melcombe and Radipole.

In an extract from the muniments of the abbey of Cerne, it appears that Henry the First in reciting the various donations to that abbey, by a grant, enumerates them in the same order, as in an inquisition 5to Edvardi 11do., when the charters and muniments relating to the abbey's possessions, being destroyed, they obtained a fresh one of confirmation, wherein all the lands are again recited, with several additions, amongst

which, occurs the manor, of Melcombe, and by this charter they had a right of free warren in all their demesne lands, in their manors, their tenants were quite slaves, were prohibited from educating a son in learning, to receive the tonsure, (ita quod percipiat coronam) nor marry a daughter out of the manor without license.

These conditions appear in the present day very harsh and apparently incompatible with the acts of those professing themselves the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus; but in those times the feudal laws were in complete vigour, it appears from Domesday-book, that the greatest burghs were at the time of the Norman Invasion, barely more than vills, and that the inhabitants lived in entire dependance on their lords, and were scarcely better than servants, and those places that were erected into corporate bodies and burghs, were so established in imitation of those of France, that the king was the supreme lord of all the landed property, and when a baron died before his heir could succeed to his patrimony was obliged to pay a composition, and if a minor, the king retained the whole profit of the estate till his majority; the feudal chief had various means of "raising the wind," by fines, amerciaments, oblatas, and other strange inventions; Geoffrey de Mandeville, paid Henry III. 20,000 marks that he might marry Isabella, Countess of Gloucester, and possess all her lands and knight's fees, this sum is immense and would be equal to £300,000 of our present money. Richard de Clare, son of Gilbert de Clare, paid a good round sum for the king to help him to recover his debt from the grasping fangs of the "children of Israel," the burgh of Yarmouth paid a sum that the king's charter which they had for their liberties might not be violated; Theophania de Westland, agreed to pay a moiety of 212 marks, that she might recover that sum against James de Fughleston; Nigel de Havere, paid 50 marks for the partnership in merchandize which he had with Geroare de Way, Peter de Penariis, gave 20 marks for leave to salt fishes, (this seems like a patent mode) there were others still more singular, such as the wife of Hugh Neville, who paid 200 hens that she might lie with her husband one night; she had two sureties who were responsible for 100 hens each, it is very probable that her husband was a prisoner, which debarred her from having access to him. Robert Grislet paid 20 marks of silver, that the king would help him against the earl of Mortaign, in a certain plea; even the clergy were not exempt, for the Abbot of Hyde paid 30 marks to have the king's letters of request to the Archbishop of Canterbury, to remove certain monks that had conspired against the Abbot, and *proh*

pudor! Eling, the Dean, paid 100 marks, that his concubine and his children might be let out on bail, (pro habenda amica, sua et filiis, &c.) Roger de Veaux, gave 5 palfreys, that the king would hold his tongue about Henry Penil's wife, (ut rex taceret de uxore Henricis Penil.) The Bishop of Winchester gave one tun of good wine for his not putting the king in mind to give a girdle to the Countess of Albemarle; indeed there was scarcely any thing but what the king would not claim; the barons and the lords of manors, the tenants in capite, by knight's service, all within their own demains, imitated the act of their sovereign, and thus the poor tenants were compelled to a degree of vassalage, that in these times, when the "march of intellect" is making such rapid strides, would scarcely be credited.

These various grants and re-grants to the two abbeys of this manor, appear to have produced a degree of animosity between the holy fathers, they either were in want of the salt from the realbenn or what is more likely they loved the "loaves and fishes" of its shores, for in the rotuli hundredorum is an account of a commission of inquiry 33rd of Henry III. before John de Percevant, and Robert de Wal Kelyn, two of the Justices itinerant, relative to some pleas, between the prior of St. Swithin, and the Abbot of Cerne, "de unâ carucatâ terræ cum pertinentibus in villam de Melcumb," *for one carucate of land, with its appurtenances in the vill of Melcumb.*

8vo. Edvardi II., 1280.

The Abbot of Cerne certified his claim of a Tuesday's market, and a fair on the eve and day of the translation of St. Thomas the martyr, "et marinas wreccas in maner de Melecumb," and that he claimed one penny from the men that inhabited the tything, beyond the memory of man, this claim of the abbot, probably was to counteract the grant made by Edward II., the same year, to the Burg of Melcombe. (See page 33.)

In the Rotuli Hundredorum, is a commission of inquiry into the rights of the abbey of Cerne.

"8vo. Edvardi II."

"Juratores dicunt quod Melecumb villam juxta mare situata, pertinet abb. Cearnel."

The commission of inquiry state that the vill of Melcumb, situated near the sea, belongs to the abbey of Cerne.

It also appears to have been a part of the barony of the abbey, and have been held in chief by the abbot, by the service of one knight's fee.

The abbots were members of the great council of the state,

by virtue of a double title, by prescription as having always possessed that privilege, throughout the whole Saxon period, from the first establishment of christianity, and secondly by their right of baronage, as holding of the king, in capite by military service; a barony was generally composed of several knights' fees. A knight's fee was so much inheritance as was sufficient to maintain a knight from two to four hydes of land, though tempore Henrici tertio, 15 pounds were considered sufficient.

A knight's service, a tenure, whereby certain lands were held of the feudal chief, upon condition of bearing arms in his service, (escuage) to this was also attached homage, marriage, wardships, &c., this was not entirely done away with, till tempore 12mo., Caroli Secundi.

11mo Edvardi II.

Melcombe is again mentioned, in a charter granted to the abbey of Cerne, wherein it states, that the abbot had the rights of free warren,* "in maneriis Rappele et Melecumb."

In the aid granted for making the black prince a knight, appears the following:—

20mo Edvardi III.

"Abbat Cernel pro duæ feodæ† pro cert. terr. in maneriis Melecumb et Rappele.

The abbot of Cerne is rated for two fees, for certain lands in the manors of Melecumb and Radipole.

Weymouth and Wyke, is not mentioned.

It appears afterwards to have become the property of the crown, probably the abbey may have parted with it, as it became the dowry of Eleanor of Castile, queen of Edward I. and to improve its revenue (her pin money) various grants of great advantage were given it, and it appeared to have been the model for those charters granted to Poole and Lyme.

It was at this time that it procured its additional title of Regis, and, probably, many of its privileges were to be accounted for by its contiguity to Weymouth, which then was the property of the family of Clares, Gilbert de Clare had married the king's daughter, Joanna de Acres, at that time the greatest baron in the kingdom; it appears, that presuming on his connection with the crown, and his great wealth, he had ravaged the lands of Humphry Bohun, earl of Hereford, Edward would not let this pass with impunity, for though he was

* Free warren, the power of granting or denying license to any to hunt in certain lands.

† A feodum integrum was rated at 40s., and the feodum parvum vel de Morteyn, at £1. 3s. 8d. per fee.

his son-in-law, still he was his subject, and accordingly fined Bohun 1000 marks, and Gilbert 10,000 marks; from this circumstance Edward might feel disposed to extend his fostering care to both towns.

The succeeding monarchs certainly assisted them in their difficulties, and released them of several burdens, it seems to have been under the control of the crown, from the above period to the time of Edward IV., when, conjointly with Weymouth, it was granted and re-granted with that town. (see page 33)

Other persons appear to have been landholders, for in the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum is this entry.

21mo Edvardi I.

"Jacobus de Lincoln certas terras remanet ex vill de Melecumb."

Certain lands belong to James de Lincoln, in the vill of Melcombe.

And this in another, Inquisition appears to have been one tenth of a fee.

Sir Wm. Uvedale also, at his death, 38th Henry VIII., held some lands, and which in 1650, a descendant of his Richard Uvedale, Esq., still held, as appears from a petition sent by these towns in answer to a commission of inquiry, referred to the "Fryary," this Richard Uvedale, married Joanna daughter of Robert Whyte of Melcombe Regis.

The connection of this manor with the adjoining one of Radipole, appears to have been the cause of great contention with the proprietors of the different lands; Melcombe appears to have formerly possessed a common (which the abbey of Cerne had once claimed, see page 58,) which is now joined to the manor of Radipole, it seems that in the mayoralty of Richard Jordan, 1596, the occupier of Radipole farm (then belonging to Thomas Hanham, Esq., Serjeant-at-law, Recorder of Weymouth, 1572, and M. P., for Melcombe, 14th Elizabeth,) had trespassed on this common, whose fine of one shilling was paid to the mayor; various contests had taken place between Melcombe and Radipole in 1653, with reference to this very thing. A Captain Alexander Kaynes, who was a recusant, and having lands at Radipole, was sequestered, yet on recovering his estate laid claim to this common in 1651, as being part and parcel of his lands of Radipole, this excited the burgesses to try his validity, in a suit of law, when a verdict was obtained in their favour, yet though this was a sufficient proof of their claim, by some lukewarmness and indecision, they allowed themselves to be non-suited, accordingly

the occupiers of Radipole farm claimed to be the lawful owners of it, and alledge that they ought to have 700 acres in the whole, whereof they claim 200 out of the common, which is quite contradictory to the quantity of land that belonged to Radipole, at the time of the Norman survey, for in Domesday-Book, it is there stated to consist of three hides of land only.

In the perambulation of the bounds of Radipole, 1582, inserted in the register of Radipole, it appears that "Att Hockerhill, near Nottington, the rector read in the hall, thence they went from the highway to the bulwarks, that they turned on the left hand and went to the Chezyl, to the end of a great dyke, where was a cross, the foot of which remained, which dyke parts the manors of Sutton Pointz and Radipole.

"Thence they went to the Chezyl by the main sea, to a bound where a gallows did stand, and a pirate was executed, which boundary parts the manor of Radipole and the borough of Melcombe, and read again over the Temswall."

This is a very conclusive paper in favour of Melcombe, the Chesil cæoil id est gravel, there stated, is still in existence, and in all probabllity, has been thrown up by the sea, subsequent to its retirement from Lodmoor.

The cross has been for ages removed, but these were not at all uncommon when this country was Roman Catholic; there is still a stone cross remaining at Langton, where the travellers and holy pilgrims, to and from the abbey of Abbotsbury, had often bent their knee with reverence, it now is passed by the costermongers to and from the same place with perfect *nonchalance*. Such a different impression does another opinion produce on the mind, and were it not for the occasional visits of the antiquary, its scite would soon be unknown.

This spot where the gallows was erected, and where a pirate was executed, most probably was near the Greenhill; this is most certain that formerly the mayor and corporate body, invariably, once a year, proceeded to this spot, where they regaled themselves and claimed possession of it, and moreover, those persons who then possessed horses and cattle, were accustomed to turn them in this common for pasture, which seems to be authorised by the previous lords of this manor, the abbots of Cerne, as is expressed by the before-mentioned grant. 8vo. Edvardi I.

23tio. Elizabethæ Reginæ, 1581.

Thomas Hayward, mayor for that year, let to William Pytt and Richard Allen, a plot of ground, containing 80 acres from Christmas last for 100 years, called Coingeare.

This must allude to a spot of ground now densely covered

with houses, and still retains the name "Conygar," which is most probably derived from Conigeria, a coney burrow, or rabbit warren, it appears that in the 5th of Edvardi II., the abbey of Cerne had a grant of free warren in all their manors, this, therefore, might have been some part of the warren.

It is not a little singular that there is a spot of ground situate on the Chesil at Portland, near the "Mare," which is called by the same name, "Conygar," this might have been formerly a warren, but not of late years, though in Portland the Scriptures would be fulfilled where it says "the rocks are a refuge for the conies." (Psalm CIV.)

32mo Elizabethæ Reginæ.

A piece of land near Melcombe called Lodmoor, in the tenure of R. Watkins, abutting on Preston and Radipole, was granted to W. Tippon and James Daw; this land so called probably from labe-Mor, a marshy land where there is a flow of water, is at the present day, included in the parish of Preston, though considerable efforts have been made by sluices to carry off the water, it still is a marshy spot, some portion of it has been brought under cultivation, and is now the place where the annual races are held.

17mo Caroli II.

The King grants to Charles Gifford, Esq., all the Flete, (from fluento to flow) al ꝥ þaben þiðin ꝼcoꝛe oꝛ Wæye-Muð, between Melcombe and Radipole, *inter villam de Melecumb et manor de Radpole*, from the windmill at Melcombe on the West of Radipole, ꝼ nam ðe Mele oꝛ ꝥ Melecombe, a salt marsh, salinus, saltern, æne ꝼealbenn, at Wade bridge, and a marsh at Brooke's bridge. This is a most important grant, as it completely identifies the former inferences that have been deduced from previous researches, in the present state of both Weymouth and Melcombe. In Athelstan's repentant charter, (see page 5,) are the above extracts, and in Domesday-Book, (see page 8,) the saltpans and mills are also mentioned, the mill from whence the name of Melcombe is derived was in existence in 1720, and was situated on the spot where the present Gloucester lodge is erected.

After this period the manor became the possession of the mayor and corporation by the charter of Queen Elizabeth, in which for the better maintenance of the bridge, the premises, and all the water running there, and the ground usually covered with the same, the fisheries and profits thereof are granted, and all court leets, houses, lands, &c., which they had to their proper use, paying yearly £16 8*s.* 3*d.*, the court leets, fairs, markets, the water, the port, and all customs, as they had ever enjoyed them before. These muniments were

afterwards confirmed by a charter of 14mo Jacobi I., and subsequently anno 43mo Georgii III. (see page 49.)

The subsequent history of the manor is similar to that of Weymouth, to which it is united. (see page 38.)

It would be somewhat impossible to ascertain the different holders of lands in this manor at the present day, as the frequent change of landed possessions, the immense number of houses created for the purpose of votes, which are held "pro tempore," by individuals who are quite strangers to the town, the enclosings made by the necessities of the inhabitants, and other causes, render it almost an Herculean task, to collect a list of landed proprietors.

At the commencement of the last century a portion of the freehold property was in the possession of the celebrated Bubb Doddington, and Mr. Edward Tucker, merchant, M. P., for Weymouth, 8th Geo. I., 1st Geo. II., and mayor repeatedly, who dying about 1743, it descended to his son John, also mayor and M. P., in several Parliaments, who died in 1780, it then fell to Mr. Gabriel Steward, who had married his daughter, for his ready acquiescence to the will of the premier, he was appointed paymaster of marines, his son Gabriel Tucker Steward sold it to William Pulteney, Esq., in 1795, though a portion of it had been sold by Gabriel Steward, in 1790, to the same individual, conditionally, for twenty-four years, for £30,000., and that his two sons should be returned as M. P.'s, one of whom was allowed £500. per annum, to support the dignity of the office, when the whole of the manor was sold to William Pulteney, afterwards Sir William, who left it to Sir John Lowther Johnstone, who dying after a fit of delirium tremens, December 1811, it descended to his son the present Sir Frederick George Johnstone, bart., a minor, under the management of trustees.

During the contested election of 1826, 7th Geo. IV., there were disclosed in a pamphlet, certain singular statements relative to the mode in which the rents of the lord of the manor were collected, and afterwards disposed of, the summary of the various items amount to the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Rental of the Weymouth and Melcombe estate from Christmas 1811, and ending Christmas, 1824, amount to	7880	11	10
The land tax from 1818 to 1824, ...	75	1	0
Bathing rents from 1811 to 1825, ...	3450	8	8¾
Carried up	11406	1	6¾

	£	s.	d.
Amount brought up,	11406	1	6¾
The Radipole Rent from 1818 to 1824, ...	4132	17	4½
Renewals upon one life from 1813 to 1824, ..	4038	1	8
Ditto upon two lives from 1813 to 1824, ...	211	0	0
Ditto upon three lives from 1813 to 1822, ..	3394	4	8
For other renewals from 1814 to 1824, .. .	3042	14	4
For the purchase of freeholds in 1812, ...	19	12	0
Miscellaneous receipts, ...	847	18	5
Total,	27092	10	0

And for the management of this estate is charged about £1000 per annum, there are also various curious items illustrative of trusteeship for "bills and expenses incurred for the interest of the estate," and also "for expenses of a petition to the House of Commons for trying the right of voting;" in consequence of which an act of Parliament was passed, whereby the right of creating freehold votes by decease was regulated and declared &c., &c.; by the leases granted all former ones were to be surrendered, the premises are sold for 99 years, or during the existence of three lives, the proof of which lies on lessee, the leaser or agent to have admission to inspect premises, to be painted, repaired, and insured, and to be quietly given up with all shoots, locks, bolts, bells, &c., to pay a reserved rent, if not paid in forty days after date or non-compliance with the terms, the lease to be void; to commit no nuisance, binding on assigns, administrators, &c.

The mayor of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, for the time being, is the lord of the manor in gross.*

The mayor, in conjunction with the corporate body and their officers, with all the paraphernalia of municipal pomp, holds his court leet† and view of frank pledge at the Guildhall, on the first Monday after Old Michaelmas-day, annually, and claims suit and service from every person resident on the

* A manor in gross is the right and interest of a Court Baron, with the perquisites belonging thereunto; which may be vested in one person, whilst others may have every inch of land contained therein; a privilege which the Sovereigns of England, its feudal lords, granted it by former charters.

† Court Baron, a court which all lords of manors (who formerly were called Barons,) have within their own precincts, in which, admittances and grants of land &c., are made to the copyholders; surrenders are accepted; and all offences under high treason are inquired into.

manor, or in lieu of personal attendance, a fine of one penny a head is paid, which is collected by the serjeants at mace.

There have lately been found at the rear of Melcombe imbedded in the alluvial deposit, numbers of beautiful stones, commonly called "Pudding or Turtle stone," they are found of almost every size, from one, to four or six feet in diameter, and one or more feet in thickness; their external appearance from the numerous protuberances and nodules, have induced them to be designated as Pudding-stones, whilst their internal construction approximate to the beautiful variegated hues of the turtle tribe, of which some connoisseurs have imagined them to be a petrifaction—this is a stretch of fancy which is not warranted, the interstitious substance in which the striated appearance is exhibited, is blue lias indurated, and the variegated hues, a chrystallyzation; they have recently been sawn into numerous layers, and been introduced into domestic use as slabs and ornamental pieces of furniture, &c., these have already proved a source of strife and contention between the proprietor of the land near which they are found, and the corporation; the former claim them as being part and parcel of his land, and the latter by virtue of their charter, each party seized whatever they could, "vi et armis," and legal proceedings were threatened; but at present remain in abeyance, the corporation have secured about 240, which are to be sold, the whole *posse comitatus* of the borough was marshalled up there in dreadful array, threatening words and looks big with defiance were exchanged, but instead of "Bella horrida bella," the olive branch of peace was exhibited, and both parties returned home quietly together.

The Borough.

It first obtained the privilege of a borough 8th of Edward I., a. r. 1280, when it came into the possession of that monarch, and probably desirous of enabling it to compete with Weymouth, and moreover to increase its revenues, as shortly after he gave it as a marriage portion to his queen Eleanor of Castile; he by a charter, granted to the burgesses of Melcombe, several liberties used by the citizens of London, that they should not be impleaded out of the borough, and grants them the borough in fee farm rent, paying yearly into the exchequer, eight marks, six according to custom, and two for increase, and gives them liberty to build on the waste and let it in fee farm, and that they should have a Monday's market instead of a Tuesday's, and a fair for eight days, on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. Botolph, viz. 17th June, and five days following; this charter from the exchequer bills, was recited and confirmed, 11mo Edvardi II.

King Edward I., in a charter in the twelfth year of his reign, 1284, dated at Aberconway, granted that the town of Lyme be a free borough, and the men to be free burgesses; that they might have a guild, (gilda mercatoria) and other liberties and free customs throughout England, which had been granted by his predecessors to the burgesses of Melcombe Regis, and the citizens of London, thus showing that even then it was considered of sufficient mercantile importance as to become a pattern for extending the like benefit to other maritime towns.

The grant of these liberties to Melcombe conduced so eminently to the prosperity of the town, that many merchants came here to "set up their staff," they appear to have chiefly come from the interior, as the numerous local names of the early representatives sufficiently demonstrate.

The same year John de Atwal, and Robert de Stafford, two of the burgesses, were sent to the king's court, in behalf of the commonalty of the town, to dispatch affairs for the townsmen and make an acknowledgement in Chancery for a debt of seven marks to the king's chancellor, to be paid to his use the whitsuntide next following.

16th Edvardi I.

"In the placita jur et assis coram John de Metingham apud Schireburn, in octae, S. Trinitatis," is observed that the king issued a writ to John de Metingham, and his fellow itinerant justices of the peace, that having granted the burgesses and men of Melecumb and Lyme, belonging to his beloved queen consort Alianor, that they should not implead, or be impleaded, out of their vills; he should appoint some discreet knight, ot hear and determine pleas of tenure and transgressions, in those towns.

The following entry refers to it.

"Jurat dicunt quod Peter Malore deb. £6 10s., pro feodæ firma ville de Melecumb, juxta mare situata et terr. et pertinent Dodemerton ten. per fermal Sancti Michael, &c.

The Commission of inquiry state that Peter Malore, owed £6 10s. for the farm of the vill of Melcombe, and lands and tenements, of the king's at Dodemerton, held by such farm from the feast of St. Michael's in the end of the 30th year of his reign, and the beginning of the 31st, during the king's pleasure, and that he also owed £6 10s. for the same farm for the last year.

1mo. Edvardi II.

The king committed to Ralph Languinou, Adam de Glyde, (both of whom were M. P.'s for Melcombe in the reign of the 2nd and 3d Edwards,) Gilbert de Portesham, Henrey Percehay, John de Portland, Robert de Beymistre, Edward de Waye, John de Flete, and other men of Melcombe, this vill (villam de Melcomb juxta mare situata,) to hold the same in custody from Easter next, during the king's pleasure, and paying yearly £14, one moiety at the exchequer of St. Michael, and the other at the exchequer at Easter.

In the reign of the third Edward, Melcombe flourished greatly, its commerce was for so small a port, considerable.

In the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, there is a reference to this.

7mo Edvardi III.

"Burgenses de Melcombe, habuerunt certas libertates ibi."

That the burgesses of Melcombe, have certain liberties there.

Though it appears they were unable to ascertain what these were, which certainly appears not a little singular, for it is added "Inquisitio non annexa."

But alas! this it appears, was but of a transient nature, for in 1386, the French collected a large fleet and army at Sluise, for the express purpose of invading England. King

Richard made great preparations to repel them; but some of their flotilla escaped, and upon this coast, did an infinite degree of damage. Melcombe fell in for its share, for they landed from their fleet and laid waste the country with fire and sword, the houses were nearly all burnt to the ground, their inhabitants prayed for the discharge of their customs, which was granted and confirmed, 1 Henry IV.

"The Frenche Kynge on his parte greatly fortyfied hys navie that he hadde on the see, and kept the streightes between Engelond and France, they did great damage to the realme of England, ther was non that coude yssue oute of England, but they were robbed, slayne, or taken, and one Sonday, they came in the forenoone, to the haven of Melkum, whyle the peple were att masse, and the Normaynes, Genowaies, Bretons, Pycardes, and Spanyerdes, entered into the towne and robbed and pylled the towne, and slewe divers, and defowled maydens, and enforced wyves, and charged their vessels with that pillage, and so entered agayne into their schyppes, and when the tyde came they disancred and sayled to Normandie, and came to Depe, and their departed and devyded their boty and pyllages."

King Richard the second, in a patent, recites the charter of Edward II., and states that the burgesses held the town in fee farm rent, for which they paid eight marks a-year, (et solebant reddere pro feodi farma ville predicte octo marcas &c.) and being impoverished by the daily assault of their enemies, and other misfortunes, occasioned the merchants to retire with their wares, &c., releases the fee farm rent and all dismes or tenthes and fifteenths for twelve years next ensuing.

Dismes ab decimæ, tithes or tenths of all fruits due to God, and paid to persons in holy orders.

Fifteenths, this as well as the tenths were taxes or subsidies levied on cities and boroughs throughout the kingdom; the present land-tax is derived from these ancient tenthes and fifteenths, which was subsequently succeeded by the subsidies, a tax levied on goods as well as lands; this by the long Parliament was converted into a method of taxation called the land-tax, levied in each county and burgh, and fee farm rents purchased of the crown, and entitled, "An Aid to his Majesty by a land-tax."

Fee farm rents, those towns or lands which are found in Domesday Book, under the title of Terræ Regis, were then and afterwards kept in his lands, and managed by preepositi or bayliff, (indeed so were all the lands of the feudal barons whether civil or ecclesiastical, such as abbots, or earls, &c.) and were called his desmesnes, these in process of time were let to

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farm to tenants for a considerable part of their true value, and this rent was called a fee farm rent, the tenants considering what these produced above the rent to be their own, or else in respect of their tenure to be to them, "Ut aut tanquam de feodo," as if they were holden in fee, paying them rent and tallages, i. e. customs.

On these same conditions were cities and burghs, the profit and receipts were first kept by the feudal lord, through the medium of a bailiff, and when charters and grants were made to their burghs, the fee farm rents were generally compounded for by a certain sum, the burgesses themselves principally rented this fee farm; the revenue was generally derived in this manner.

"The kings of England were not wont to reserve to themselves a rent or ferme out of any airy or barren franchise; the yearly rent of towns arose out of certain locata or demised things, that yielded issues or profits inasmuch that when a town was committed to a fermer, he well knew how to raise the ferme out of the ordinary issues of the town with an overplus of profit to himself which arose from assized rents, perquisites of court, customs of goods, fairs, markets, stallage, tolls, wharfage, &c." Madox Exchequer.

The first of Henry the Fourth, in their petition, they state that there were seventy-nine tenements belonging to wealthy merchants who had eighteen large ships and six barges (bargea) fit for merchandize, and forty boats fit for fishing, that they had to rent the town of King Edward to ferm (et dicet quod dom. Edvardus primi quond, Rex Anglorum, concepit burgensibus ville prædictæ ad fermam perpetuam cum portu circum nil pertinent, &c.); but that the assault of the French and forainars, and injuries by the tempest and tides, that the vessels and boats were destroyed, and the merchants dead and removed, they therefore pray to be released of their fee farm rents, tenths and fifteenths, for six years; it seems that Henry acceded to their request and granted them a release for the time, it appears that this only remedied the evil for a short time, for they were unable to rally and recover their lost commerce, a spirit of despondency seemed to hang over them and paralyzed all their efforts, for in the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, is the following entry.

Chart. 9, Henrici IV.

"Villa de Melcumb, juxta mare situata centum et vigintis burgensibus et aliis tenentibus occupata fuit et habitata solebant reddere pro feodi firmæ ville predictæ octo marcas, &c."

That the vill of Melcombe near the sea, was inhabited and

occupied by one hundred and twenty burgesses and other tenents, and were accustomed to give for their fee farm, eight marks, &c.

50mo Edvardi III.

By reason of the daily assault of their enemies, and great spoils, it was so wasted and decayed that there remained only twenty burgesses, who obtained of King Richard the second a release of eight marks for twelve years, at the expiration of which time only eight burgesses were left, for at the time of the grant the town was well built and inhabited by many rich burgesses and merchants, whereby they were enabled to support the payment of the said ferm and other burdens; but now from the former injuries, many of the merchants dead, and the rest departed from the town, that the peers were destroyed by a violent storm on the feast of St. Martin last, and could not be repaired under three hundred pounds, to the great damage of vessels and merchants, and more accidents likely to happen for want of repairing, and that besides the eight burgesse there were only twenty-one poor tenants inhabiting the town, and were incapable by extreme poverty, from paying the ferm or the subsidies of tenths and fifteenths, and the ships and barges destroyed, and the greatest part of the town was vacated, deluged, or destroyed, so that no other profit could arise, except the toll of the market, the grist mill, and the perquisites of court, not exceeding ten shillings beyond reprisals, wherefore they prayed for a discharge."

The king again compassionated his unfortunate tenants, he granted that for ten years they should only pay twenty shillings for their fee farm rent, (pro feodi farma) and six and eight-pence for their tenths and fifteenths (dismes.)

Little is known of the town from this period, till several years afterwards, calamities of various kinds occurred, for in another petition presented 1mo Henrici V., they set forth that the town by the tides and overflowing of the sea was often wasted, and many inhabitants and merchants departed from it, and that the port was by divers tempests often destroyed to the damage of vessels and merchants, and that more accidents like to happen for want of repairs; the king on this report renewed their former lease and remitted all their arrears.

11mo Henrici VI., July 8, 1423.

This year, probably from the repeated applications to the crown, the commons requested that an act of Parliament should be passed, wherein it is set forth, that considering the weakness and insufficiency of the port of Melcombe, and its not being inhabited, nor of strength to resist an enemy, great losses have happened to John Rogers, Walter Tracy, William

Abbot, and others, merchants, and hurt to the customs, to prevent future assaults, the place lying open and exposed, and the town and port of Poole being inhabited and frequented by a great multitude of people, &c., that Melcomb after the feast of St. Hilary next, be no longer a port, but a creek, as it has anciently been accustomed to be, and that Poole be a port &c., and it was ordered that Sir John Radclyffe, Knight, Steward of Guienne, who by the king's warrant was to be paid a certain sum out of the port of Melcomb, should now be paid out of the port of Poole. This act must have been revoked, for in the Calendarum Chartarum Rotulorum, is an account of Edward IV., probably shortly after his accession to the crown, when he became not only the feudal lord, but Lord Paramount of Weymouth and Melcombe, having inspected the charters of Edward I., Edward II., and Richard II., grants them another with more extended privileges, that the burgesses of Melcombe do enjoy all the liberties granted to the citizens of London, that none of them should be compelled without the mete or bounds of the borough, for any thing except of tenures without them, a burgess was to be quit of all murders within the borough and in the soken of the port, no burgess was to fight within the lists at Tournaments, they were to have power to create a coroner, an escheator, and other officers, to be quit of all tolls and customs in all ports, except for every ship laden with wine, for which the king's prisage was demanded.*

Also to hold a hoysting for the space of two days, also to be free of Chiedwitche.† No merchant or other person coming into the borough by land or by water, shall buy or sell till they were admitted into the borough, nor till the customs due be levied, nor till their goods were weighed by the king's balance, and all other customs held by the city of London; moreover, all the profits of the farm of the borough and port, and all void places therein; also in place of the market upon Tuesday's each week, within the borough, another on Monday's, and a fair there during eight days, viz. on the eve, day, and morrow, of St. Botolph, the abbot, and five days following.

* Prisage of wines, a custom for the king to challenge two tun of wine at his own rate, which is twenty shillings per tun, out of every ship laden with wine, less than forty tuns. It subsequently was received by the king's butler, and called butlerage.

† Soken of the port, all creeks or places within the limits of the port. Chiedwitche, all fines for bondage of men and women residing in the borough without leave of the lord of the manor.—Hoystyng, Galbol's games, &c.

Any stranger who came to reside and trade in Melcombe, without being made a freeman of the borough, was obliged to pay a certain sum per week, to the corporation, which sum was to be applied to the maintenance of the harbor, or the benefit of the town, indeed, no merchant who failed in obtaining the freedom could hope for success in commercial transactions, he could not purchase a cargo till every freeman had, by not acceding to the price during the three days (till the expiration of which, no foreigner could bid) tacitly refused to avail themselves from excessive prices, &c. asked of the privilege of being first served.

The family of Rogers were connected with the town, at an early period, and were the founders of the priory, in a petition to the bishop of Sarum relative to it, John Rogers and Hugh Deverel, state that the inhabitants were rude, illiterate, and situated "in angulo terræ," Tracy and Abbott, are the names of M. P.'s for this town in that reign.

The abatements made 1st Henry V., and 11th Henry VI. have continued ever since, and are reserved out of the ground rents, and amount to about as much as Weymouth, payable to the corporate body, who collect them, and apply them for the use of the town.

The election of a Parliamentary Burgess for this borough, is frequently the cause of great contention; for these boroughs returning four Members, the possession of sufficient votes to preponderate in the scale, or throw at the feet of those whose length of purse, or senatorial ambition, excites a desire to represent it in Parliament, is at all times an object of great desire; fraud and connivance are here unblushingly pursued; bribery, with a front brazoned by the repeated applications of the "aurum et argentum," those necessary evils of life, rules lord of the ascendant,

> "Interest with her thousand features,
> Guards the road to honour's way.

The collision between the contending parties is sometimes a sad spectacle of the angry feelings and evil passions that party animosity engenders; the demon of discord rules Lord Paramount, and for some considerable time after the uproarious hubbub is ceased, does the recollection of wrongs, real or imaginary, place a bar against an union of sentiment; neither is this confined to modern times, for contested elections have often found here an arena for men's evil passions to have full scope.

The following MSS. relative to a contested election in this

town, are from the descriptive character, highly singular, they exhibit the modes used in those days as the same used in later times, and illustrate many points in the œconomy of the inhabitants and merchants.

"A burgesse in Parliament, being to be chosen for Waymouth in Sir John Strangways roome. The writ was delivered to the under-sherife January the 11th 1666, who sent the precept to the mayor of Waymouth, January the 15th, who proclaimed the election January the 24th; "That it should be the next day in the forenoone, about ten of the clock, beying ffryday, in the Towne Hall, in Melcomb side," where accordingly, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, bayliffs, common councilmen, and freeholders mett, (thes onely haveing voyces at the election.)

"The poll began and continued not above a quarter of a hower, before a dispute arose about a freeholder, whether he were soe or noe, this occasioned the firste heate, but afterwards many exceptions of that kind were taken on both sydes, in so much as there was grete noyse, and horred confusion, as enforced the mayor several tymes to stop the poll, until it was appeased, wich lasted not long, ffor ever now and then, they would be up yn armes. Hoopeing and bawling and affronting the magistrates, with opprobious language, as they sate on the bench, in so much, as there was just cause to feare, all the company would have gone by the eares. At last they came to an agreement, that those that tooke the poll, should make a marke at every body's name, against whom there was any exception, and so have it decided at last, after the heate of the poll was over.

"This motion was so faire as for the present they agreed to it, but scarce had they taken seven or eight men's names, but out they were as loud as ever, and reddy to strike, and although the mayor caused several "O Yes'es," and proclamations to be made by his serieant, requireing all persons under a penalty to be quiete, telling them and often forewarning and threatening them, that unless they would be quiete, and make lesse noyse, and proceed orderly and civilly, he would adiourne the poll, this he did more than twise; but finding neither intreaties nor nothing he could say or doe, would prevayle, but rather animated them to hoope and roare, and fling upp their hatts and began to justle one another. The magistrates (who sate above the rest) and saw what was like to ensue, to avoid a mutany, and to prevent a further myscheefe, advised the mayor to adiourn the poll, to the same place, which the mayor accordingly did, until the Munday following, 10 of the clock; but before the adiournment, there was polled ffor Sir John Coventry, 77 voyces, and ffor Mr. Harvey, onely 59.

"As soon as the mayor had pronounced the adiournement, Mr. Harvy and som of his party cryed out, 'I proteste against your adiournement,' whereupon the mayor replyed, 'Iff I doe any thinge I am not abel too justyfye, it is I that must answer for it, and I will not runn the hazzard of the breach of the peace; by your favour, do not you see all the people reddy to goe by the eares? Have not I often caused proclamation to be made? and still they persist.'

"So away the mayor and aldermen went, and most of the company to the mayor's house, when after he had been abouts halfe a quarter of an howre, Mr. Darby, the under sherife, came to the mayor pretending he came from the high sherife to desire him to proceed on with the poll, the mayor made answer 'What he had done in adiourning the poll was done upon good grounds, and such as he could very well answer for. 'Besides' say'd he, 'there are soe many exceptions alreddy taken against soe many ffreeholders on both sides, as it was not possible toe examine all the differences and make an end of the poll that nyght,' moreover, sayd he, 'the ffreeholders being now dismiat, they are gone home, every man his several way.' 'Well, (say'd Mr. Darby) sith you refuse to goe on with the poll, Mr. high sherife is resolved he will.' To which Mr. mayor reply'd, 'If he doe, it is more I believe than he can answer ffor, what power hath he to take the poll in our corporation? Have not I the precept in my possession sent to me by himselfe? Can he transmitt his power to another and yet keepe it himselfe too?' (or words to that purpose.) 'Well,' sayd Mr. Darby, 'sith you refuse toe goe on with the poll, I will acquaint Mr. high sherife with what you say,' and soe he departed.

"As soon as Mr. Darby came back toe the high sherife, hee (by whose perswations I know not; haveing many young attorneys in his company) proceeded on with the poll; but least the people that remayned in the hall should think the sherife had power soe toe doe, notwithstanding the adiournment, the mayor caused the serieants to goe into the hall, where the sherife was polling and there proclaimed it, and at the market-place alsoe, 'That the poll was adiourned until Munday, ten of the clock,' yet the sherife went on until he had polled every man that was for Mr. Harvy, and (as I was informed,) made the fifty-nine voyces amount to 101 or 102, at the most, allowing every voyce to be a lawful ffreeholder, that voted for Mr. Harvy, (which is since most evident they were not,) ffive of them being made ffreeholders the last law-day, in order to a new election (as is reported) which need not have been done had they ben ffreeholders before.

"However, granting every man they polld to be a ffreeholder yet they amounted to but 101, and soe they declared that 101 being more than 77, they shut up from the poll, and proclaimed Mr. Harvy their Burges, who riding upon peoples' shoulders from the hall toe his inn, he himselfe shaked hys owne hatt ffor joye, although som of the wisest of his party cryed 'Aye, until Monday, that the poll goes on,' and this was the proceeding of the firste daye, as well as I could remember, haveing taken som notice in writing, and made a strict observation of every minute action, as believing I might bee called to be a witnes in the case.

"On Munday about ten of the clock, according to the ffrydey's adiournement, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and baylife, with the ffreeholders mett and went on with the poll, where they tooke for Sir John Coventry sixty-six voyces more, which added to the seventy-seven taken ffryday made in all 143. But not one voyce presented or offered itselfe for Mr. Harvy, at which Mr. Mayor asked aloud if there were not any voyces more that would be polled for Mr. Harvy, and it was likewise asked whether any could make exceptions against any of the ffreeholders that had then voted for Sir John Coventry, to which, one Mr. Collyer, (a great stickler ffor Mr. Harvy, and he that affronted the maiestrats) replyed 'no; we except not against your voyces, but against your proceedings, ffor we know you will carry it by the maiority of voyces,' at which all the people laughed. But Mr. Mayor making no return caused the serieants to make proclamation after three O'yes'es. If there were any that would be polled ffor Mr. Harvy hee was there to receave their names; but nobody coming he caused the serieant to goe into the market-place and there make proclamation; alsoe all this while the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and bailiffs, sitting, still expected who would come, but nobody appearing, hee then caused the lists toe bee called over, every person by his name, and the serieant numbring them, as they were called there were found for Sir John Coventry 143, and ffor Mr. Harvy onely 59. (The mayor taking no notice of what was done by the sheriffe on ffryday after the adiournement,) whereupon silence being taken, the mayor closed the poll, and told the company fforasmuch as Sir John Coventry had 143 voyces and Mr. Harvy but 59, hee dyd pronounce Sir John Coventry to bee there lawful and elected burges, and so from thence the mayore, recorder, aldermen, bayliffs, town-clerk, and maiority of common councell, went to the market-place and there proclaimed him a second tyme, and so a third tyme, on Waymouth side, according to custome, the high sheriffe together with one Mr. Backway, (a forward young atturney,) and the rest of Mr. Harvy's party were also present at

the Munday's poll, and can witness that the maiore did oftene call for Mr. Harvy's voyces, as is above aleaged. This is the true and perfect narrative of that whole business, as well as I can remember."

Mr. Harvy's party were not satisfied with the mayor's decision, as he petitioned against the return, but the committee of privileges decided in the favour of the returning officer; there were several curious scenes exhibited at this election which have since been repeated at no very distant period; another MS. thus describes the manœuvring tricks resorted to.

"*Memoranda of som disorderlie actings on Mr. Harvy's behalfe when Sir John Coventry was chosen burgis, January the 25th*, 1666.

"John Smythe sayth, Mr. Steven Edwards offered him half a crowne for his voyce, notwythstanding he knew he had promised it before for Sir John Coventry's party; also sayth Mr. George Churchey desired him to fall off from Col. Reymes; and to that purpose offered him half a crowne. William Weekes, or his wife, sayd to Mr. Roberts, that he was offered a good sum of mony to com off from Sir John Coventry's party, and vote ffor Mr. Harvy, and that they of Mr. Harvy's party did use to leave mony upon a table in a roome, (where noboddy was) and bid them take what they find, or what they woulde, soe they would give their voyces for Mr. Harvy.

"Peter Harte was likewyse promised half a crowne ffor his voyce, and in case he would not give it for them, yet that he would falle off from Col. Reymes.

"Mr. Haysom, used as an argument to take off people from giveing there voyces for Sir John Coventry, 'I will not say Sir John Coventry will sweare 1000 oathes in an howre, and rant, or be drunk, and that he is a courtier, I say I will not say so, but I am sure Mr. Harvy is a sober man, a godly religious person, and our own countryman,' at other tymes when he was not so confident to whome he spake, used a little gentler expressions, as Captain Pley will justify in thes words, 'One of thos that stand, I name no man, was never heard to sweare, or deboysh, but the other I will not say he swere 1000 oathes in an howre,' Mr. Robert Wall, witness.

"Edward Attwooll was offered 5s. to change his voyce from Sir John Coventry to Mr. Harvy, January the 12th, 1666, but would not tell who he was that offered the mony.

"Michell Brown sayth that Mr. Edward Cooke thretned him that if he perswayded Giles Ffowler to give his voyce for Coventry, he would make him pay lustily to the rates.

"My Lord Bowzer, says, he was thretned by Cooke, Pinson, and Smart, that unless he would give his voyce for Mr. Harvy

he should never putt a beast into the field, and that he had as good fling himselfe into the sea, as be against Mr. Harvy, January 24, 1666.

"Mr. Haysom thretned Joseph Watts, that if he would not give his voyce for Mr. Harvy, he would turne him out of his place, &c., (the poore man beyng a tydeman, and Mr. Haysom the collector,) or words to this purpose, which the sayd Watts justifyed to hys face before Col. Reymes and Capt. Pley, and others.

"Joseph Watts sayth, Mr. Ffrancis Bennett, and Mr. Harvy's clerk, who pays the poore Cavalier souldiers, that are pentioners to the county, (his master being then treasrer to the county) their respective pentions, intices him to give his voyce for Mr. Harvy, and if so, promised to pay his quarteredge the next weeke, but he refusing and giving his voyce for Sir John Coventry, was denyed his usual portion the insuing quarter, althoogh his many wounds for his loyalty had made him a cripple so as he is not able to worke, haveing been faythful to the crowne, and a gunner in the Westerne army, so the poore man was thretned by Mr. Haysom to loos his place, and by Harvy denyed his pention to his undoeing, for his love to Sir John Coventry.

"Sir Roger Cuttance saw som of Mr. Harvy's company to winck and nod there heads to some of hys party and doth believe it was to hoope and hollow and make disturbance, ffor soe it fell out presently after, thereupon."

Another MS. contains the following "querys, and objections wyth there ansers thearuppon, why the mayor keept the precept so long in his hands before he went to the election?" Answere, "The towne being full of men of warr and seamen, I was in good hops they would have been gone to sea, I myselfe and severall others of the magistrats had extraordinary beusiness, and besides we thought it would bee goode manners to rrite to Sir John Coventry to London, too bee satysfyed of his intentions before we durst venture too bring his name in question.

"Why he gave no longer warning of the day of election than twenty-four hours? It is as much warning as ever was used to be given in former elections, it being otherwise in a corporation were all the freeholders are within an howres call, than when a knight of a shier is to be chosen at large in a county.

"Why he adiourned the poll, if allowable, yet why to the third day, unles to recover mor voyces for Sir John Coventry, then was in towne the first day? I adiourned the poll for these reasons, ffirst because of the several exceptions aboutt the

freeholders, and often disturbances, it was not possible to make amend that night; but cheefely to preserve the peace, and that by the advice of the bayliffe and aldermen, who had receaved scurvy and unfitting language from som of Mr. Harvy's party. Besides, the meanest sorte of them, began to justle and throst one another, as if they would immediately had gone by the eares, which wee had too much cause too feare as the case then stood, and for adiourning it to the third day, the very next day was market-day at Dorchester, where most of our merchants and shopkeepers use constantly to be about their cheefest beusiness, besides the towne being full of seamen belonging to men of warr, were to set sayle the next eavening; and the towne full of prize wine, one might not have been enough to have appeased the difference, as also I myselfe being non of the healthfullest at no tyme was then worst than at another tyme, being spent out with that day's trubl, did believe I should not be able to attend that service so soone.

The following "inducements prive councellors, letters from Lord Ashley sent with Coventry, promised our friend thereby to be favored in getting our mony," were fastened on the mayor, to which he replied, "I doe declare and profess I did not adiorne for that cause in the least, nor did I expect or believe ther was one voyce on the last day then was there presents on the first day, if any were, let the person be named, and I believe Sir John will abate three for hym."

So far the MSS.; the mayor, Sir Henry Cuttance, appears to have been a character of a decided firm stamp. Several of the worthy electors who thus tumultuously assembled together, were for their violent conduct furnished with accommodation in Newgate.

The contested election in 1826, 7th Geo. IV., is considered to have been one of the most violent in character, and terrific in appearance that ever was known, it lasted the full time allowed by law, when the party which appeared last in the field was declared elected. Numerous gangs of desperate individuals, lawless bodies of smugglers, and whole families of Portlanders

> "A race of rugged mariners are these,
> Unpolished men, and boist'rous as their seas;
> The native islanders alone their care,
> And hateful he that breathes a foreign air."

were hired to assist in securing the introduction of the voters, the freedom of a British election was here carried beyond the due bounds of law, the introduction of the military was requested, who rode into the town, armed *cap-a-pie*, and

took their station in close approximation to the Guild-hall; as soon as the town-clock struck four, the note of the Blues was sounded, the shrill clang of divers kinds of instruments was heard, and an instantaneons rush of the hired mob towards the poll took place, the feats of prowess that were here brought into action were astonishing, that daring *nonchalance* which so truly depicts a Briton, was here exhibited in the highest state of excitement, each party fought desperately, for "when Greek meets Greek then comes the tug of war." The military conducted themselves with great degree of forbearance, though provoked by repeated acts of imprudence; the chief magistrate was knocked down, the hall taken by storm, polling books destroyed, and the poll closed "vi et armis," the town itself though protected by the military, who scoured the streets, and by an extra number of the *posse comitatus*, hired at 5s. per day, was a scene of wild anarchy, riot, and confusion; the ties of consanguinity were disowned, the professional aid of the faculty were put into constant requisition, for such were the horrid contests that ensused that nearly betokened a civil war; neither did the close of the poll arrest the irascibility of the malevolent passions excited, legal proceedings were instituted at the County-hall, pecuniary compensations were awarded, and several of the most active were incarcerated in the county gaol. The following is the state of the poll at its close on the 27th June, 1826:—

T. F. Buxton, Esq.	248
Colonel Gordon	189
Rt. Hon. Thos. Wallace	177
Masterton Ure, Esq.	170
J. W. Farrer, Esq.	153

The four first were declared duly elected. The number of votes declared to be in the town at the last election, when hustings were erected, amounted to 1200.

A bill for quieting corporations, (by which, all enquiry and prosecutions against mayors, aldermen, and other officers of towns and their official proceedings, would be null and void unless commenced within a certain period,) came before the House of Lords in the year 1742, occasioned by an appeal to them from the violence used by Walpole, who in order to compel the election of some of his satellites for this borough, had endeavoured to intimidate the corporation by threatening them with the loss of their charter, and such was the influence of ministerial power, that the sentence of the inferior court was confirmed; though so far from its being unexceptionable, that in the debates on this subject, Lord Talbot expressed himself as follows:—

"Let us enquire my Lords, how we shall discharge the duty of Judges, by confirming the sentence, whether we shall act as the guardians of right, and the last resort of oppressed privilege; or whether we shall not appear the instruments of ministerial tyranny, and the mean supporters of an inferior court: by confirming this sentence, we shall not only deprive a magistrate of his office, which he holds by a claim which has been thought just for more than a century, and in the exercise of which it appears reasonable to believe that he is disturbed not for misbehaviour, but for discharging his trust; *but we shall entail upon the town and corporation perpetual confusion and disturbance;* evils, which government was instituted to prevent, we shall subject them for ever to the authority of men, untried, and inexperienced, and by consequence, to all the mischiefs of an ignorant and corrupt administration."

The Duke of Bedford said "That the prosecution was the effect of ministerial resentment, it was threatened to influence the election, and was executed not to humble the haughtiness of guilt, but to crush the firmness of integrity, to punish those who could not be terrified, and to obtain for those the satisfaction of revenge, who had lost the pleasure of success; for this purpose an attorney that was a stranger to the borough was employed to harrass the mayor with a prosecution, which was defeated at the assizes, where men of plain sense were to determine the cause, but successful at the Court of King's Bench, where law and subtlety were admitted."

Lord Chesterfield also in the debate says, "Many of our boroughs are now so much the dependants of the crown, that they are generally called court boroughs, or as they are more commonly called rotten boroughs; for our ministers for the time being, have always the nomination of those representatives, and make such arbitrary use of it, that they often order them to chose gentlemen whom they never saw nor heard of, perhaps, till they saw their names on the minister's orders for chosing them; those orders they always punctually obey, and would, I suppose, obey them, were the persons named in them, the minister's footman, then actually wearing his livery, for they have, we know, chosen men who have but lately thrown the livery off from their backs, but never can throw it off from their minds."

These strictures and censures of the noble lords, are, alas! too fatally true, the observations of Lord Talbot, so prophetically announced, are to the present day fulfilled at every election, and until a practical reform takes place in the town, must always continue so; the following extracts from the

Diary of the celebrated G. Bubb Doddington, exemplifies in an extraordinary degree the system of court patronage and borough interest, that barters for a court toy, or a title, all honourable feelings, and disposes of the rights of the unfortunate inhabitants to the highest bidder, or at the will or nod of ministerial influence.

"1750, November 18th.

Mr. Tucker and I went to Mr. Scropes to desire him to acquaint Mr. Pelham, that as we supposed, when he engaged for the charter at Weymouth* he understood that he was to have two friends there during this parliament, though no such conditions were actually expressed, yet if Mr. Plummer should die (who was that day cut for the stone,) we were too nice upon points of honour to take advantage of what might be implied, though not specified, and therefore, we would choose any unexceptionable gentleman he should name. But we would not choose any other, or one who by his relations or situation might seem to be put there, with a view to make a separate interest, and we should consider the insisting upon such a one as a premeditated design to make war, which when we were in the right, we were ready to begin, as soon as he pleased.

"1750, December 11th.

Mr. Tucker and I went to Mr. Pelham at Mr. Scropes, by appointment, we settled the Weymouth re-election, according to the agreement made in obtaining the new charter, and he recommended Lord George Cavendish.

"1752, February 2nd.

Mr. Pelham sent a message to Mr. Tucker, by Mr. Ellis, to know what was to be done on a new election at Weymouth, pretending that the choosing two at his nomination was to last always.

"1752, February 10th.

Mr. Ellis was with me, he introduced the talk of his election on a new parliament, I told him that I thought my behaviour, both public and private, even in opposition, never could have given just cause of offence to the Pelhams, or could have shewn any indisposition to live personally with them, that as I was now, entirely free from engagements, I was sincerely

* This alludes to a disputed election to the civic chair, when the charter of James was canvassed in consequence. Mr. Tucker had been chosen mayor by a bye-law of the corporation, where they had elected a mayor from the aldermen, which was contrary to the express words in the charter, which states that the mayor should be chosen out of the burgesses; this was confirmed by the House of Lords, and in 1747, August 19, an explanatory charter passed the seals, whereas the one alluded to was the charter of Geo. III. page 52.

desirous of Mr. Pelham's favour and friendship, if he would accept of my favour and friendship, and if then, he would receive my services, he might *upon proper conditions* command my interest, and in that case, nobody would be more welcome to me at Weymouth, than he Mr. Ellis, that this was in Mr. Pelham's breast, who best knew his disposition, but that mine was entirely to be his friend and servant *upon proper conditions*.

"This *of proper conditions*, was frequently repeated, and Mr. Ellis he desired to observe that there was neither promise nor engagement.

"1752, May 5th.

"Saw Mr. Pelham, began by telling him of the application I had received from Mr. Ellis about his election for Weymouth, that I could be of some utility by my own and by the weight of my friends, particularly in choosing several members, for though reports had been circulated to the contrary, yet I assured him as a gentleman, and his servant, *that the interest of Weymouth was wholly in me and Mr. Tucker, that it was impossible to choose one member against us*, and for this I desired no rank which could justly create envy in my equals, or any sort of power that might occasion suspicion in my superiors.

"1753, December 11th.

"In a conversation with the Duke of Newcastle, I recommended my two parsons of Weymouth and Bridgewater, Burroughs and Franklin. His Grace assured me that they should have the first crown livings that should be vacant in those parts, if we would look out and give him intelligence. (It would appear that Mr. Burroughs had the gift of Bradworthy living, but Mr. Franklin was not so fortunate.)

"1754, March 14th.

"In another conversation with the Duke of Newcastle, he engages to choose two members for Weymouth, which the Duke desires to be Mr. Ellis of the Admiralty, and Lord John Cavendish son of the Duke of Devonshire; the Duke remarked that he often thought of *the ease and cheapness* of the elections at Weymouth.

"1754, April 14th, 15th, 16th.

"Spent in *the infamous and disagreeable compliances* with the low habits of venal wretches!! (this is the observation of one who by these very individuals raised himself to the peerage.)

"1754, June 21st.

"In a conversation with Lord Dupplin, he says, that he has a

good deal of marketable ware, (id est, the above venal wretches at Weymouth.)

"1758, July 18th.

"The Duke of Newcastle tells him that His Majesty endeavoured to lessen his credit at Weymouth, that the Duke replied, 'That he thought His Majesty had told him that the borough was put into Mr. Pelham's hands at the renewal of the charter, on condition of his nominating two members for that time only.' His Majesty could not deny this, but upon the whole would not receive me to any mark of his favour.

"1757, February 18th.

"Mr. Tucker had agreed with Mr. George Grenville to be paymaster of marines, and for Governor Grenville to be chosen in his room; the king sent Fox to know if he could prevent it, and if he thought I would interpose, Fox said, he supposed I would if His Majesty commanded me, the king ordered Fox to speak to me, he did, and I stopt it.—(Veni, vidi, vici.)

"1760, November 18th.

"Mr. Ellis was with me to let me know that the Duke of Newcastle was desirous of seeing me about the election at Weymouth, I deferred giving an immediate answer.

"November 19th. I wrote to Lord Bute desiring him to settle the answer I should send to the Duke of Newcastle.

"November 20th. Mr. Ellis came for the answer, which was, that I begged to be excused troubling his Grace, because my interest at Weymouth was engaged to gentlemen, who I could not doubt but would be agreeable to him, because I had occasion to believe they would be acceptable to the king.

"1760, December 21st.

"Mr. Glover was with me, he was undetermined about political connections, but I believe will come to us.

"1761, January 16th.

"Lord Bute observed that he would agree to no condition with the Duke of Newcastle till he saw that Dashwood, and others, had such places as he wished.

"1761, February 21st.

"Lord Bute and I talked over Sir Francis Dashwood's, succeeding Charles Townshend, as Secretary at War."

These extracts are in themselves a host of evidence against the malpractices of boroughmongers, and should act as a caution to warn the electors against the hollow, specious, sycophants, who solicit "the honour of their suffrages," but such is the obduracy, and wilful, and sometimes it must indeed be confessed needy actions, that almost any individual, "*is welcome to Weymouth upon proper conditions.*"

The following bill of indenture is inserted to exhibit how wide is the difference between the courtly parasite of the reign of the Georges and the homely burgess of the Edwards, who would only accept of a cade of mackarel, whereas the other obtained a title.

"Thys bill indentyd meade the VIII. daie of Aprille yn ye thridde yere of kyng Edward the fourte, betwyne the Baylyffs of Weymuth and Iohn Sackvylle, Esquyer, witnessyth that ye sade Iohn Sackvylle graunteth bye thes presents too bee oone of ye burgeys (burgesses) for Weymuth, att ye P'lement to been heldyn at Westminster, ye XXIX daie of ye saide monyth of Aprille.

"Ffor the qwhychqwœhdyer (whichsoever) yt holden long tyme or schortt or qwhedye (what) yt fortune too bee takyn for hys wagys, their a cade* of maquerellee, though too been delivyred bye Xtenmasse nexte comyng. In wytnysse heroff ey thyr partte too others, indentur interchawnxubilly (interchangeably) her setys her sell daie and yere above sayd."

* Cade, a barrel, keg, or cask, containing usually 500 mackerel or herrings, 1000 sprats, or 2000 prawns, or shrimps.

The Priory.

ONCE existing in this town, still retains a slight memorial of its Catholic foundation, in that of its present name, "The Friary," is situated in Maiden-street, N. E. of the church, it was a house of Dominican Friars dedicated to St. Winifrid, but Speed says, that it was dedicated to St. Dominick, Leland designates it as "A fare house of Freres yn ye este parte of ye towne."

By a certificate of the commissary of the Bishop of Sarum, concerning the fryars at Melcombe, dated 1426, he censures an altar raised in this town, and orders an inquiry into the names of the persons who celebrated at it, and of those who favoured them, he afterwards issued a mandate to Edward Polyng, John Lok, and John Lowyer, Dominican fryars, who had erected and celebrated an altar there, declared them contumacious and prohibited their proceedings; this is signed by Robert Neville, who was Bishop of Sarum and Provost of Bereuly, 1426 to 1438.

John Rogers and Hugh Deveril, Esquires., petitioned the Bishop of Sarum, that being moved by the desolation of this vill, they had begun a house for the habitation of the White Fryar's preachers here, and certify:—

First. The intention of the work.

2nd. The fitness of the place to be dedicated for a church.

3rd. Its endowment.

4th. The Apostolic and royal licence for beginning the foundation.

5th. They inquire whether such a house may be erected, without diminution of the Bishop's jurisdiction, and the right of the parochial church.

6th. That there was no place dedicated to God in Melcombe, that the parochial church was a long mile and a half from this vill, and was inconvenient for the burgesses to go.

7th. That the inhabitants were rude, illiterate, and situated in Angulo Terræ, that many places in this vill were destroyed by an hostile band, and remained uninhabited.

8th. That the vill lay open to enemies, whereby the king's rent is not paid, and the customs diminished.

This petition is without date, but it would appear from its internal evidence, to refer to the former, and was most probably in the same bishop's time, it is in many respects singular, as it exhibits several traits of the customs of the times, and the localities of the town and its precincts.

Tanner also refers to a patent of the 8th of Henry VI., 1430, and 24th of Henry VI. 1446, concerning these fryars and the Priory.

This John Rogers entailed his estate on his son, 7mo Henry VI., and died 20mo Henrici VI., and is the individual referred to 11mo Henrici VI., in a petition to the legislature relative to the removal of the port to Poole.

In the "Inquisitiones post mortem," the following is an entry relating to it.

20mo Henrici VI.

"Johan Rogers, Melcombe burgus, certas terr., ext. qdam. prior, Sti. Dnici. reman.

That John Rogers possessed certain lands in the borough of Melcombe formerly belonging to the priory of St. Dominick.

35mo Henrici VIII.

stIn the Inquisitiones ad quod damnum, is an entry which pates, that it was found (juratores dicunt) not to the king's srejudice if he granted license to Sir John Rogers of Briantone, to hold of the king in capite, a parcel of his ferm of Melcombe, by service of paying yearly to him for the said ferm, sixteen shillings yearly, the scite of the priory, with its appurtenances, (cum pertinentibus) and other lands, (cum certas terras ibidem.)

1mo Elisabethæ reginæ.

Henry Rogers, gent. and Alianor his wife, by indenture show that they acquired to them and their heirs, of Richard Rogers, knight, and Andrew Rogers, the scite of this priory, and all messuages, &c. lying in the precinct, but the alienation being without licence, they had a pardon for 60s. and a grant of the same to them and their heirs.

In the Inquisitiones post mortem, or inquiries into the property of persons deceased, there is an entry referring to this place.

8vo Elisabethæ reginæ.

"Joannis Rogers, Eques, Melcombe burgus, priori, Sti. Dominici, quod certas terras cum pertinentibus ibm remanet."

That John Rogers, knight, possessed certain lands and

their appurtenances, in the borough of Melcombe, which formerly belonged to the priory of St. Dominick in that place.

19mo Elisabethæ Reginæ.

John Peers of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis gentleman, demised to Henry Rogers, the house, scite, circuit, and precinct of the said priory, late in the tenure of Henry Rogers, to hold from Michaelmas eve 1579, for the term of 2000 years.

22mo Elizabethæ Reginæ.

Henry Rogers granted to John Peers, the said house, scite, circuit, and precinct, of the said priory, from Michaelmas eve next, for the term of 999 years.

23tio Elizabethæ Reginæ

John Peers and Henry Rogers granted the residue of the term of 2000 years and all their rights to Thomas Hardye.

Hardy must have disposed of it to the Uvedale family, probably for electioneering purposes, for in the year 1650, Lord Arundell of Wardour, and Richard Uvedale, (who had married a daughter of Robert Whyte, whose family had filled the civic chair, 1602, and also represented the town, 3tio Jacobi I.,) claimed it, for in the answer to a commission of enquiry (de jure inquirendo,) the inhabitants state that "The churchyard in Melcombe being very small for a burial place, the ground and buildings called the Friary lying ruined and near adjoining the church, may be made a burial place for both towns, in case Lord Arundell and Richard Uvedale, Esq. who lay claim to it will consent."

From the Uvedales it fell into the possession of Col. Bullen Rymes of Whaddon, (M. P. for Melcombe, 13to Caroli II., and whose daughter had married Mr. George Pley, a family at one time of some influence here, having filled the chief magistrateship repeatedly, but now entirely extinct,) who probably bestowed it as a marriage dowry for his daughter, as in 1700, it was in the possession of Mr. Charles Langrish, (another of the merchants of these towns, and who also was mayor, 1701,) whose daughter having married James Joyeaux gent., brought it to him, since which period it became the property of William Chafin Grove, Esq., of Whaddon, and M. P. for Weymouth, 15th George III., and also recorder of the borough, 1774, subsequently it fell into the possession of the Johnstone family. As a corroborating proof of the former extent of the town, the sea washed the base of the boundaries of the priory in East Street, since which period, there has been a considerable enlargement of the town, by enclosing the sands, and embanking out of the sea,

The whole of the land on which the priory stood, was upwards of an acre; the chapel which was on the South side, was converted into a malt house. Over the Western door, were three blank escutcheons, supported by a Lion and a Wyvern, and on it for the crest, a Lion passant guardant; on the North side, was most probably the cemetery, in 1650, this was in in a ruined state, and in 1682, a considerable number of human bones, skulls, and other tokens of decayed mortality were here exhumed, and since that period upon digging up the ground for the purpose of erecting houses, traces of the cemetery are visible; tradition has handed down to posterity that a chair—

> "Edged so nobly with rows of brass nails,
> ——————but now perforated sore,
> And drill'd in holes,——————
> By worms voracious eating through and through,"

was given to the prior of the dominican priory of Melcombe by some cardinal; it had a cardinal's hat, and certain arms engraven on the back, probably the arms alluded to above; this chair was supposed by devout catholics, to possess the miraculous power of ushering into the mansions of the blessed, all those individuals who were enabled to die sitting in it; this was not unlikely, one of the holy arts used to enthral the minds of fanatics, by nearly all ecclesiastical establishments, who each possessed something miraculous, either to forgive sins, or heal infirmities; such mummery of religion is still encouraged in catholic countries to the present day, the real object is sans doubt, to enrich the coffers of the fraternity, by the alms-giving of the devout.

This chair in that age of fanaticism, was far superior to the miracle working power of the modern prophet, the German prince, for though the prince it is believed was able to alleviate the pangs of suffering mortality, yet, he has not as yet ventured to engage that his supplications will be of such avail, as to ensure an entry into heaven, as this chair was conceived to have; accordingly flocks of devout catholics, who were bordering upon the verge of the grave, were brought hither, that each in his turn, might die under the joyful expectation of exchanging a life of misery and woe, for one of rapturous enjoyment and fruition, through the instrumentality of this "currus triumphalis."

Subsequently at the dissolution of religious houses, and also since the union of the towns, this chair from being held in this sacred character, was converted into the municipal office

of holding the persons of the borough representatives, but alas! though lately every search has been made for it, no trace of it can be discerned.

That there existed a cemetery of some importance is certain, from Owen Watson, rector of Portland and Radipole, at his decease, having willed his body "to be buried at the Fryer's Preacher's here, where he had built a tombe."

The priory is now parcelled out into numerous small tenements, though still there are left some tokens of bye-gone days in that part occupied by the late James Joyeaux, of the priory, which remains *in statu quo;* the remainder is so altered by various changes, that the ancient landmarks are not visible.

Opposite the priory is an old building, which tradition states was a nunnery, but there are no traces of its existence to be found; it more probably might be some house connected with the priory, or some other ecclesiastical establishment.

A list of the several Monasteries, Priories, Fryaries, Hospitals, Nunneries, and Colleges, in every county in England and dioceses of Wales, which were demolished in the reign of Henry VIII., and their annual revenue:—

Counties.	Monasteries.	Priories.	Fryaries.	Nunneries.	Colleges.	Hospitals.	Valuation.		
							£	s.	d.
Berkshire, . . .	5	2	1	3	3	2	6368	12	8
Bedfordshire, . .	1	6	3	4	3	3	3054	10	3
Buckinghamshire,	1	1	1	2	1	0	0730	1	11½
Cambridgeshire, .	9	14	4	7	1	4	4002	11	10
Cheshire, . . .	5	1	3	2	3	1	1447	2	0½
Cornwall, . . .	11	3	1	0	2	0	1287	0	6½
Cumberland, . .	4	4	1	2	22	0	2549	12	9
Derbyshire, . .	8	2	0	3	3	1	1055	12	11½
Devonshire, . .	14	10	1	2	1	1	5394	2	6
Dorsetshire, . .	7	2	2	3	3	1	4520	6	9
Durham, . . .	4	0	0	1	10	4	2696	15	0
Essex, ...	13	14	3	2	2	4	7013	8	6
Gloucestershire, .	11	3	4	1	1	5	7302	5	10½
	93	62	21	33	55	26	47422	3	7½

Amounts carried forward.

Counties.	Monasteries.	Priories.	Fryaries.	Nunneries.	Colleges.	Hospitals.	Valuation.		
							£	s.	d.
Brought up,	93	62	21	33	55	26	47422	8	7½
Hampshire, . .	8	10	6	3	3	4	7218	17	5
Herefordshire, .	2	6	1	2	0	1	0522	4	5
Hertfordshire, .	2	12	3	5	1	3	4076	3	10
Huntingdonshire,	2	4	0	2	8	1	2743	5	6½
Kent, ...	9	13	6	9	1	13	8840	18	7½
Lancashire, . .	5	5	0	0	6	0	2288	19	8½
Leicestershire, .	9	6	0	3	4	5	4833	11	9½
Lincolnshire . .	32	24	5	6	5	4	1664	12	0½
London, . . .	3	3	0	4	2	12	2595	8	0
Middlesex, . .	3	3	5	2	9	5	3550	0	8
Norfolk, . . .	12	20	16	5	9	4	6128	1	3
Northamptonshire,	6	6	4	7	7	3	4731	15	6
Nottinghamshire,	3	6	2	1	4	3	2763	7	7½
Northumberland,	2	2	4	3	3	1	1252	15	10
Oxfordshire, . .	7	7	5	4	1	3	3078	1	6
Rutlandshire, . .	0	1	0	0	0	1	0043	12	4
Shropshire, . .	8	5	6	0	3	2	2757	14	6½
Staffordshire, . .	4	10	2	5	8	3	1902	17	3½
Somersetshire, .	10	8	2	3	5	6	9324	17	2
Suffolk, ...	13	15	3	3	4	1	5390	7	9
Surrey, ...	3	4	3	0	1	1	4883	14	0½
Sussex, ...	8	9	3	5	3	4	3355	10	7
Warwickshire, .	4	10	3	6	6	4	3839	3	0
Wiltshire, . . .	3	13	4	4	4	8	4044	17	1½
Westmoreland, .	1	0	1	0	0	0	0166	10	6
Worcestershire, .	7	4	2	2	2	2	4896	1	8
Yorkshire, . . .	33	10	11	23	15	11	4611	3	5
Asaph diocess, .	4	0	0	1	0	1	0808	5	5
Bangor ditto, . .	5	1	3	0	2	0	0298	18	2
David ditto, . .	6	5	2	0	7	0	1548	3	7
Landaff ditto, .	6	6	3	1	1	0	0925	12	0
Total,	314	290	126	142	198	129	183508	1	11½

The following, extracted from a MS. in the college at Oxford, thus describes the policy of destroying the above abbies &c., and other ecclesiastical establishments.

"Yea I will now add and conclude withall, that the only losse of the Monasterys was not only for the decay of Virtue, Prayer, and Religion, but also of the publicke Commonwealth, inestimable and importable. I say they were the very Nurserys, not onely of pietie and devotion, but alse of the happie flourishing of the Commonwealth; where were the blind and lame or the impotent poore people fedd and succoured but there? I have heard that there were more such holpen in the citty of Canterbury in one day, thenn bee now in all Kent; more in Winchester in one day, thenn bee now in all Hampshire, and the like may be said of other places. Where were Noblemen's, Gentlemen's, and other men's sonnes, so well, so virtuously and so mannerly brought up as they were there? Where had the younger Brothers of Noblemen and Gentlemen better entertainment than there? Who found so manie needie schollars and poore men's sonnes at the Universities as they did? Whereby were the rents and the price of other things so excessively exhausted but by the suppression of the Abbeys? Yett were there some ignorant peple that would talke, and some fond, fooleish Preachers, that would preach before the suppression of the said Abbeys, (egges beeing then at twelve on more a peny, and fish at a very reasonable rate,) that the religious people, by reason of their fasting in Advent, and at other times, made those victuals deare; but since, we have been faine and gladd to buy three or fower egges a peny, and to pay three times or fower times for fish, as wee didd before. Yea I have crediblie heard, that our sea and our waters, in many places. have not so plentyfully yeilded fiishe as they did before. Whereby is it come to passe, that where before there dwelt many a good yeoman, able to doe the King and the Realme good service, ther is nee bodie now dwelling, but a shepherd with his dogge, but by the suppression of the Abbeyes? Whereby is it that whereas men were wont to eat sheepe, now sheepe eate up houses, whole townes, yea men and all, but by the suppression of the Abbeyes? Where is the decay of tillage, but by the suppression of the Abbeyes? What is the decay of wooddes, and the cause of the excessive price of woodde, but the suppression of the saide Abbeyes, which did carefully nourish, supplie, and husband the same? What is one of the causes that the people are not more charged than they were wont to bee with subsidies, loanes, and other payments, but the suppression of the said Abbeyes, out of the which was wont the Prince to bee furnished with mony, when occasion of his suddaine and weighty affaires required his present helpe? Againe, what is one of the causes of the great poverty and begging of the people, but the sup-

pression of the saide Abbeyes? for whereas in times past, a greate number of both sexe and kinde, entered yearly into Religion, and there led a single and chaste life, now all such beeing since married, and they and their children, and children's children, beeing multiplied in such an infinite number, neither farms sufficient for such a number can be provided, nor yett can they live by the way of merchandize, or by occupying, but with the greate hindrance of other occupiers and merchants; nor yett can they by service and retainement with Noblemen and other Gentlemen bee conveniently, in such a hughe number be provided for.

"I talke nothing here of diversother intolerable and importable detryments, whereof one among others is the defacement, distruction, and losse of the old worthy chronicles and other rare manuscripts (as yett unprinted,) that were carefully and tenderly keept and preserved in the said Monasteryes, which losse, if it bee well valwed as itt ought to bee, is greater than I can well expresse, and will be felt by the whole realme and our posteritie many years after our deathe, Woe! therefore even for very civille and politicke cause to the Prelate, (Thomas Cranmer,) that made the lewde, lying sermon for the destruction of the said Abbeys.— Woe! bee therefore to them that procured the spoyle and eversion of them.— Woe! bee even to the great Abbots themselves, that winked at the matter, yea, and gave their consent to the suppressing of the lesser, thinkeing to preserve their own still, which they could not long do after, for all the faire and flattering promises made unto them, and for all that many of them (to their great charge and impoverishment,) procured and purchased the continuance of their howses under the greate seale, as I have heard some of them report, only they gott that benefit that Poliphemus promised to Ulisses, that is, he would be so gratious and favourable to him, that hee would spare him and eate him last of all his fellowes. But yett Ulisses got hymself by policie out of danger, but those men could by noe means provide, butt that their Abbeyes were att length eaten and devoured as well as the lesser. All those which beeing under the cleere value yearely of two hundred pounds, or not above were gyven by an act of Parliament to the King; but as for the residue, they came to the King's hands by one meanes or other, and that without any act of Parliament at all.

"Such as would voluntarylie give over were rewarded with large annual pensions and with other pleasures. Against some others, there were found quarrells, as againste Hughe Farindone, Abbot of Redding, which was there banged,

drawn, and quartered, against Richard Whiting, Abbot of Glassenbery, who was of haute treson attainted, that was hanged on the Torr Hill, beside his Monasterie. Against John Beche, Abbot of Colchester, putt alsoe to death, which dreadfull sighte and heareing made some other so afrayde, that they were soone entreated to yielde over all to the King's Highness's landes, and some thought they escaped fayre, when they escaped with theire lives; so that after a few yeares there needed no Parliament att all, for the greate Abbeyes, they came in otherwise so thicke and so roundlie, but only to confirm such as had been already relinquished, and such other as should hereafter bee so relinquished and yielded up to the King's Highness.

"So much have I the more sayd, (Gentle reader) that you may see the juste hande of, and plague of God, upon these greate rich Abbots, and their marvellous overthrowe, which so lightlie and unadvisedlie gave theire consents to the overthrowing of the houses of theire poor brethren."

The Church.

Is of very modern structure, situated in the centre of the town in St. Mary Street, and though it possesses few claims to an imposing exterior, by any superior architectural decorations, yet, the simplicity and propriety of its interior disposition, is generally admired. It has very recently undergone a complete painting process, which has greatly added to its chaste appearance.

That a chapel was formerly on this spot is quite clear from dean Chandler's Register, for in the 26th of Edward I. when the manor came into the possession of that monarch, the bishop of Sarum, under whose jurisdiction it then was in 1298, 1st December, by a letter to the *locum tenens* of the dean, informs him that the chapel at Melcombe, the prebendal church at Lyme, *cum ceteris aliis* in the archdeaconry of Dorset, *lately built*, were not consecrated; he ordered this ceremony to be performed *instanter*, pursuant to a constitution of Otho and Ottoban. (Reg. Gaunt.)

The following with a slight alteration is here inserted, as a further illustration of the form in use at those times:—

"Soone as bryght sonne along the skyne,
Had sent hys ruddie lyght;
And Fayryes hyd ynne oslippe cuppes,
'Till wish'd approche of night.
The matyn belle with shrillie sound,
Re-eckode throw the aire;
A troop of holie Freeres dyd
For Jesus Masse prepare.
Around the highe unsaynted Chyrche,
Wyth holye reliques wente,
And everie doore and poste about,
Wyth Godlie thynges besprinte.
Then ye Bisceop yn scarlete dresste,
And mytred holilie,
From Mastre Maire hys grete howse,
Wythe Rosarie dyd hie.
Before hym went a throng of Freeres,
Who dyd the Masse Songe synge;

Behynde hym Mastre Rogers came,
  Tryckyd lyke a barbed kynge.
And then a rowe of holie Freeres,
  Who dyd the Masse Songe sounde,
The procurators and Chyrche Reeves,
  Next preste upon the grounde.
And when unto the Chyrche they came,
  A holie Masse was sange,
So lowlie was theyr swete voice,
  The Heven soo hie it range.
Then ye Bisceope did puryfye,
  The Christ to Godd for aye,
Wyth holye Masses and goode Psalmes,
  Which he dyd therein saie;
Then was a Sermon preeched oone,
  Bie ye Bisceope holie;
And after that another oone,
  Y preechen was bie mee.
Then all did goe to Maires howse,
  An Enterlude to plaie;
And drynke his wyne and all so goode,
  And praye for hym for aie."

This is corroborated by a further extract, where the Bishop of Sarum in another prescript to the Dean of Dorchester, orders him to cite William le Towe, and Robert de Durtesdyche, presbyters, (In those times this word presbyter meant a lay priest, the choir or chancel of the church was also called presbyterium,) for intruding into the chapel of Melcombe belonging to the mother church of Rappole, A. D. 1301, Aprilis.

It probably might only have been a chauntry chapel, for these were frequently erected near the sea, and more especially in maritime towns, for the convenience of fishermen going to prayers, who during these ages of superstition, never put to sea, without offering first at the shrine of their patron saint, their Ave Marias and Pater Noster, which were generally accompanied by a small votive offering. This chapel appears to have been dedicated, at least one aisle of it, to the Virgin Mary, and the remaining part to the Holy Trinity.

This must have gone to decay most likely when the town became impoverished from the deficiency of the accustomed donations, this chauntry chapel dwindled to a complete nothing, for the petitioners John Rogers and Hugh Deverell, to the Bishop of Sarum, about 1430, plead among other justificatory reasons, " That there was no place dedicated to God in Melcombe."

And in a MS. in the Augmentation office, in the Exchequer at Westminster, anno 1550, 5to Edvardi VI., is a return of all church utensils, in the county of Dorset, it has the signa-

ture of Gyles Strangeways, John Horsey, George de la Lind, and Thomas Trenchard, commissioners, and notwithstanding the most inconsiderable churches in the deanery of Dorchester are mentioned, the names of Weymouth and Melcombe do not appear, the inference to be deduced from this, is that in neither town did any place exist where divine worship was performed, more especially as their two mother churches are mentioned, viz.;—at Radipole, two bells; Wyke Regis parish hath four bells; Upway, two ditto; Portland, three in the tower; Sutton Pointz, four ditto in the tower, and two small ditto out of the tower; Fleet, two; Poxwell, one bell hanging in the churchyard; Chickerell, two bells; Lyme, two ditto: among the defects appear, at Upway there lacketh one bell, which was sold by the parishioners for £9 6*s*. 8*d*., which has been added since that time, and one in Portland.

But it is more than probable that about this time it was rebuilt, as in the church now destroyed, on a stone which seems to have been a part of the West end of the old chapel, was the date 1580 engraven, and in the following extract from an act 1mo Jacobi I., cap. 30th, 1603, it there states that the church of Radipole is a mile and a half from any part of Melcumb, and so small, that it cannot receive a sixth part of the parishioners and inhabitants, who are ten to one, and have been much hindered from divine worship, being subject to damage to their houses and ships, from fires and incursions from foreign enemies, who, in time of divine worship, may surprize the town, and depart before the inhabitants can repair home to make resistance.

It is then enacted that the inhabitants of Melcombe may, on the ground where the chapel stands, erect a church, and enclose the waste ground abutting on the North and South of the chapel part of the possessions of the town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, to make a convenient churchyard.

This church to be called the parochial church, and that such divine worship &c., and such parochial rights which were formerly done by the parson of the old church of Radipole for the inhabitants of Melcombe, shall be done in the new church.

Radipole to be computed a chapel of ease to it, but to retain such parochial rights to be done by the parson of the new church, as were done in the old church or churchyard.

The patron of Radipole to have the same right of presentation in the new church, as he had in the old.

A mansion with a garden in Melcombe Regis, in the East Street, bounded on the East by the sea, the inheritance of

Thomas Barefoot, (mayor that year,) shall be for the incumbent of the new church.*

In 1605, the church was erected on the scite of the chapel, and made parochial, and September 14th, 1606, Dr. Zouch, suffragan to Dr. Thornborough, bishop of Bristol, consecrated it and named it Christchurch which was the name the former chapel bore, for the common name of churches dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was that of Christ church, as the cathedrals of Norwich, Canterbury, &c., anciently dedicated to Holy Trinity, are thus called.

This church consisted of a nave, and two aisles of equal length, surmounted by a wooden turret, in which was one bell, the upper part of the nave was the chancel or presbiterium, and was supported by six columns arched, and had from its architecture, the appearance of being a part of the old catholic chapel; it was altogether a low, heavy, fabric, the baptismal font had a venerable antique appearance.

It appears that certain citizens of London, who had commercial connections with the merchants of this town, contributed largely to its erection, and Lady Browne a member of the Frampton family, was also a great benefactress towards the finishing of it, as in the east window of the north aisle were her arms stained in the glass; various members of the Browne family had repeatedly filled the civic chair, and represented the town in Parliament.

The parochial register begins in 1606, by Richard Eburne, who stiles himself, "Ministrum Verbi," when Dr. Zouch baptized a child of the Bond family; the presentation to the rectory formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Cerne, who first attached Walter Harvey in 1208, to the mother church of Radipole, it remained attached to the abbey till the dissolution, when the crown became the patron; in 1575, the Queen gave it to James Marwell, who was the rector at the completion of the church in 1605, when it was united to Melcombe Regis.

At present, the presentation is in the Wyndham family, who first held it in 1697, it is a discharged living, clearly value, £47.

In the Liber Regis, in the deanery of Dorchester, are the following items of the value of the livings of the mother churches:—"Rectory of Radipole, £11 5*s.* 5*d.*, rectory of King's Wike, £19 7*s.* 1*d.*"

* This mansion has undergone great alteration since that period: the garden which then ran down to the sea, at the rear of the houses, is now built on, and fronts the sea.

A commission of inquiry was in 1650 instituted into the ecclesiastical presentations, and the return to the commissioners from hence was, that nothing arises out of Melcombe to the minister. At Radipole is a church worth about £100 per annum, but not many families, the tithes worth £60 per annum; Mr. Richard Barwell, incumbent, is sequestered, £50 per annum out of it is paid by order of the committee to the minister of Melcombe, and the remainder to Mr. Burgess, who serves at Radipole, that the presentation belongs to James Hanham, and Alexander Keynes, Esqrs., lords of the manor, both recusants, that out of the impropriation of Affpuddle, on the composition of Richard Laurence, Esq., about, £30 was paid last year to Mr. George Thorne, minister of Melcombe; £50 per annum also was paid to Mr. Edward Buckler, minister of Melcombe; £50 per annum to the minister of Wareham; £30 per annum to the minister of Affpuddle; and £30 per annum to the minister of Portesham.

That the impropriation worth once about £160 per annum, but now, by diversity of causes not above £140, and that the monthly rates and all taxes deducted, the clear yearly produce to the minister of Melcombe, will be about £30 during pleasure.

The church as it was originally constructed, having become inadequate to the accommodation of the increased number of inhabitants, and moreover becoming unsafe for the divine worship, as portions which fell during service frequently indicated; it was resolved upon by the inhabitants, to procure an act of parliament, for taking down and re-building the church of Melcombe Regis, accordingly one was obtained June, 1815, trustees were appointed with full power to rebuild it, to dispose of the sittings, &c.; the church was found to be in a state of great dilapidation, and in October, the foundation stone of the present church was laid with all the ceremony usual on such occasions by the Right Reverend Father in God, John Lord Bishop of Sarum; on the behalf of Her Royal Highness the late deeply lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales, the following is the inscription on the brass plate:—

OCTOBER 4TH, 1815.

"THIS FOUNDATION STONE WAS LAID AT THE COMMAND OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES, BY THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY, IN THE FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR OF OUR SOVEREIGN LORD GEORGE THE THIRD."

On the 23rd of March, 1817, it was opened for divine worship by the Rev. Dr. England, Archdeacon of Dorset; it is considerably larger than the old, as a portion of the burial ground is now covered by the North aisle; considerable umbrage was excited by an immense quantity of human bones which were disinterred when the churchyard was levelled for this purpose. It consists of a nave, chancel, and two aisles, extending the whole length of the church; it is galleried round, with another tier erected, as the inscription says "A. D. 1821, THOMAS HAWKINS AND GEORGE VOSS, CHURCHWARDENS." The galleries are supported by pillars of the Doric order; the church will contain about 2000 persons including 500 free sittings, the gift of the Rev. G. Chamberlaine; the royal pew was at the east end of the south gallery, it was sold with the rest of the royal property, for £220 10*s*. The corporation have two pews, one for the mayor and aldermen, the other for the capital burgesses, lined with red cloth, and adorned with the town arms &c., situated at the upper end of the south side of the middle aisle.

The corporation possess a set of large, handsome, bibles and prayer-books, bound in Russia, presented to them by Giles Templeman, Esq., the late recorder, these are only used on official days; those in common use were the gift of John Taylor, citizen and stationer of London, to the parish church of Melcombe Regis, for the use of the mayor, bailiffs, &c.; one of this family was mayor repeatedly, and M. P. 7th and 10th of William III.

There are also for the use of the officiating minister, bible and prayer-books, presented to the parish of Melcombe Regis together with two altar chairs, by the Rev. Willoughby Brassey, curate, 17th April, 1824.

The most prominent features on entering the church, are the pulpit, the altar-piece, and the organ.—The pulpit is situated in the centre aisle, with a spiral staircase, which originally led from the chancel, but at the request of the bishop of Bristol were removed; the position of the preacher is a very elevated one.

The altar-piece is one of the *chef d'œuvres* of Sir James Thornhill, a native of the town, and M. P. 8vo Geo. I., and 1mo Geo. II., it represents the Lord's Supper, and was presented to the town as a token of his affection to his birth-place, it is considered by connoisseurs and amateurs, worthy the situation it holds; Sir James it is said was offered £700 for it, which he refused; underneath it is the following inscription in gilt letters:—

DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO. S.

JACOBUS DE THORNHILL EQUES AURATUS,
ET HISTORICES PICTOR REGIIS
OPPIDO HUIC IN QUO NATUS FUIT,
HANC AMORIS SUI TESSERAM ARTISQUE SPECIMEN,
D. D. D.
MDCCXXI.

The whole of the east end of the old church was originally covered by this painting, but now from the difference of size, is considerably elevated, where it is viewed with a better effect.

The organ was erected by voluntary contributions, and the choir is considered one of the best in this part of the kingdom.

The interior of the church boasts but of few mural monuments, several were injured at the demolition of the old church, and have never been since erected, the aisles were also covered with tomb-stones, marking out the last token of mortality, these also have disappeared; the only monuments that are at all worth noticing are the following, which from the quaintness of their language, are frequently the objects of attraction.

The following is in black marble under the south gallery:—

NEERE THIS PLACE LYES
THE BODY OF MARY
THE WIFE OF WILL. COLBORNE
MINISTER ELDEST
DAVGHTER OF CAP. GEORGE PLEY
AND CONSTANCE
HIS WIFE, WHO DYED YE X DAY
OF SEPTR.
MDCLXV.

"Deare friends what meane you thus to weepe and mourne,
Ouer my duste, which sleeps within its vrne;
My God and Father hath but call'd me home,
To take me from the guilte yet to come.
Saue then your teeres, and spend on me no more,
I am but gon a littell whyle before;
Your turne may be nexte,—ere long you must
With me be lodged in the silent dust.
Twise twelve yeares maid I liv'd, 3 monthes a wife,
This was the complement of my shorte life;
Death's fatall hand, happily me have hurl'd,
Out of this vaine into a better world;
Where neither sinne nor sorrow ever shall
Vex or perplex me,—Oh! that's best of all.

Four sisters more entombed with me doth lye,
As may be seene vpon theire grave neere bye ;
The Sixt lives, with parents and brothers three,
May we all meet in bless'd eternitye."

And another under the gallery near the entrance to the south aisle :—

UNDERth LIES Ye BODY OF
CHRISr. BROOKS ESQ. OF JAMAICA
WHO DEPARd. THIS LIFE 4 SEPr. 1769
AGED 38 YEARS, ONE OF Ye WORst. OF MEN
FRIEND TO Ye DISTRESd.
TRULY AFFECTd. & KIND HUSBAND
TENDER PARt. & A SINCr. FRIEND.

The artist in this monument appears to have contracted his words in a very arbitrary manner, and instead of inserting at whole length, (the evident intention of the tablet to record) the good qualities of the deceased, it is made to appear just the reverse, it is very similar in effect to another artist, who, when an affectionate husband wished to have engraven the words of Solomon, "that a virtuous woman was a crown to her husband," condensed the word crown into what he considered synonymous, viz. 5*s*.

In the churchyard is a tomb-stone recording the following event :—

THIS STONE
WAS ERECTED
BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION
IN REMEMBRANCE OF
THE CRUEL MURDER
COMMITTED ON THE BODY
OF FFLOYD MORGAN
(WHO LIES HERE)
ON THE 27th OF APRIL, 1792
AGED 22.

"Here mingling with my fellow clay,
I wait the awful judgment day;
And there my murd'rers shall appear,
Although escap'd from justice here.

The church is surmounted by a cupola, supported by eight pillars in which is the bell used for divine worship and funerals.

The following is an authorized list of fees payable to the rector of Melcombe Regis :—

BURIALS.

	£	s.	d.
Each Funeral,	0	1	0
For breaking the ground when first of a family,	0	6	8
For a head-stone,	1	1	0
—— foot-stone,	0	10	6
For a monument in the church excepting the altar,	21	0	0
Marriage by licence,	0	10	6
———— banns, including certificate,	0	7	6
Publication of banns,	0	2	6
Certificate of a register,	0	2	6
For each thanksgiving,	0	1	0

CLERK'S FEES.

For burial of each corpse,	0	5	0
Making a vault for one,	1	1	0
———— Two,	1	10	0
———— Three,	2	2	0
And ten shillings for each additional corpse,			
Putting down a head-stone,	0	2	6
Marriage by licence,	0	5	0
———— banns,	0	2	6

Melcombe Regis, April 17th, 1820.

Willoughby Brassey, Curate.

On a board on north aisle in gilt letters is the following list of subscriptions towards the erection of the new church in Melcombe Regis, 1816.

	£	s.	d.
Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Wales,	105	0	0
The Lord Bishop of Bristol,	10	0	0
———— Salisbury,	5	5	0
Rev. George Chamberlaine Rector of Weymouth, upon condition that Five Hundred open sittings be appropriated free of expense to the poor inhabitants of the united borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis,	500	0	0
John Herbert Browne, Esq.,	200	0	0
General Thomas Garth,	105	0	0
Mrs. Frances Steward, towards the expenses of the organ,	100	0	0
Right Honorable Thomas Wallace, M. P.,	100	0	0
Christopher Idle, Esq., M. P.,	100	0	0
William Williams, Esq., M. P.,	100	0	0
Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esq., M. P.,	100	0	0
George Purling, Esq.,	100	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Martha Guppy,	100	0	0
And a service of communion plate*,			
Masterton Ure, Esq., M. P.,	50	0	0
Colonel Dalrymple, M, P.,	50	0	0
Giles Templeman, Esq., recorder of Weymouth,	50	0	0
The Rev. Dr. Bishop, rector of Wells,	50	0	0
John Wiltshire, Esq.,	50	0	0
Stephen White Warne, Esq.,	50	0	0
Robert Gear, Esq., London,	50	0	0
Mr. R. Vining,	31	10	0
Lieut-Colonel Cooper,	25	0	0
Messrs. Mountain, Scott, and Co., proprietors of the Union coach,	20	0	0
The Rev. Robert Marriott, rector of Broadwey,	10	10	0
The Rev. Archdeacon England,	10	0	0
The Rev. John Williams, rector of Marston,	10	0	0
The Rev. H. F. Yeatman,	10	0	0
Mr. James Taylor,	5	5	0
Mrs. Taylor,	5	5	0
The Rev. J. K. Wyndham,	5	5	0
Mr. Daniel Luce,	5	5	0
Mrs. General Rayne,	5	0	0
Mrs. Wilmot,	5	0	0
The Messrs. Blundell,	2	0	0
Miss Philips,	1	0	0
Miss Anne Harbin,	1	0	0
T. A., of Shaston,	1	0	0

CHURCH LANDS.

It appears that various of the monastic establishments in this county, held at different times certain portions of lands in Melcombe. In 1293, 21st Edward I., the prior of Frampton, held some lands here which were valued at 6*s.* 8*d.*

* The chalice of the old church by a fortuitous circumstance, is in the possession of the author, it is composed of pewter, weighs with the deficiency of the lid, which is lost, 4½lbs., and holds 4 pints; on the front of it is engraved,—

HOLINESS VNTO THE LORD,
ZACH. XIV., VER. 20.
IOHN STARR,
CHURCHWARDEN,
1633.

And at the dissolution of the Monasteries, it was ascertained that several burgages, cellars and tenements, "cum pertinentibus ibidem" were in the possession of the Abbeys of Bindon, Milton, Abbotsbury, Wilton and Netley, probably they might have been merely used for the purpose of granaries for corn and grain, or when the Newfoundland trade was prosecuted here, might serve for depositories for the fish, prior to being conveyed to the respective monasteries, where the ghostly fathers indulged themselves in those and other Apician morsels; there has lately been found a curious MS. undated, but from the diction, it seems to have been written before the dissolution, it was amongst numerous other MSS. in the chapter-house at Westminster, it shews the state of pride, lewdness, and other vices that flourished under the hot bed of the holy fraternity of monks; it refers to the abbot of Abbotsbury, whose revenues at the dissolution, amounted to £484, it is written by one of the monks who is shewing up his Abbot,—and runs in the following manner.

"Of the Monasterye of Abbatsburye and of the saide Abbat thereof, of the mysse-usynge of hymsilfe.

"Whereas he doth breke the Kyngs fowndacons and the injuncyons of the same.

"Whereas we have benefactors who hath gyven lands unto the Monasterye and to the saide brothers of the same, to have mass and dirige and dole[1] to be distributed to poore folkes and wyth certain pyttance to the Convents: Whereas many of them bee nott observyd and kepit: Whereas the Abbat takyt to hys owne use and hath made great waste of woad salys[2] wrongfully solde from hys brothers and from his tenants and and also hathe sent owt of the tresary, sertin juellis mor than halfe wheras[3] we canot juge the treu valow of the same and hathe solde hyt and at another tyme after that sent owt of the Tresary a crose and a ....[4] a box to putt the sacrament on, and al thys ys solde and gon. He hath an abomynable rule wyth kipyng of wymen nott wyth i, ii, or iii, but wyth manie more than I doe wryte off, and also no religon he kepyth nor bye day nether bye nyghte,[5] nether to no brother else[6] and yff any off hys britheren speket unto hym for any thyng brakyng hys fowndacons he seith[7] thus "Mye councill gyueth mee to take ytt as ytt pleseth mee"[8] and hath putt owte certen ....[9] growne to hys brother in law wich marryed wyth hys own syster

1 Charity. 2 Woodsales, the use of coal was then unknown. 3 Whereby. 4 Illegible, but might probably be the Pix. 5 The monks are accustomed to pray by night. 6 Nor to his brethren. 7 Saith. 8 My council willeth me to take it while it pleaseth me. 9 Illegible.

and whereas he myght had a great fyne for hyt, he gave hytt awaie for nothynge, and when hee myght had XXVI*s.* VIII*d.* of yerelye rente, he hath putt ytt owte for XII*s.* a yere and hath sent owte of the Tresary all the evydens of the men of Skildat whereas[1] we cannot till wher they .....[2] and oute off hys boldnesse ys upon Master Strangewaise, whych hathe grett profytts and grete feys[3] and bargayns for hys servynts and to other gentylemen where as Master Strangwaise[4] ys bent to hold up the Abbatt in hys doynges wyth long salys of reversyons;"

Wrytten bye mee

Day. Will. Grey,

Muncke of Abbatsburie.

[1] Whereby. [2] Illegible. [3] Fees. [4] Gyles Strangeways, John Horsey, George De La Lind, and Thomas Trenchard, were the commissioners appointed in the time of Henry VIII., and 5th of Edward VI., for the county of Dorset.

The Guildhall.

Is situated in St. Edmund Street, near what was formerly called Babbridge Square, is a plain inelegant structure with evident tokens of a deficiency of taste in its architectural erection; is used for all the magisterial business of the borough, for the election of the parliamentary burgesses, for the mayor's court leet and other local meetings; it has a wooden turret, in which hangs a bell used for the above purposes, has an inner chamber where the corporation transact their business and an outer one, where the town meetings are held, it has the appearance of having being erected about the time of the union of the town, for on the mayor's chair, (which is a very plain one) is this date 1571, and the following inscription "REMEMBER. T. CAILYNG. OBEYE. THY. PRYNSE." the arms which are immediately over the chair has the date 1721. In one corner of the hall, is erected a plain white marble statue by Theakston of the late Wm. Weston, Esq., stiled in the charter "the first or modern mayor," it represents him sitting in his robes of office as mayor, holding in his left hand the charter granted by his late majesty. On the key stone above are the arms of Weymouth, and on the plinth, the sword and mace with the pelican, allegorical emblems of justice and benevolence; the figure is in alto relievo 6 feet 6 inches high, and the pedestal with the tablet of inscription 3 feet 6 inches, it cost £360, and was exhibited in Somerset house. The following is the inscription on the tablet.

To the Memory of
SAMUEL WESTON, ESQ.
A Member of the Corporation for 33 years,
And four times Mayor of this Borough and Town;
Who died the 19th day of September, 1817,
In the 62nd Year of his Age.
Penetration united with a sound and discriminating judgment,
With tender sympathy and diffusive benevolence,
Formed the more prominent features in his character,

These excellent and amiable qualities,
As a Man, a Citizen, and a Magistrate,
Commanded and secured respect in life, and veneration in death.
In commemoration of these virtues,
And as a memorial of affectionate Friendship,
This Monument has been erected
By Public Subscription.

It was erected 1821, and there is an anecdote connected with it, which is not a little ludicrous, in December, 1821, a country lad was sent into the Guildhall, by his master to an in-individual whom his master wanted, the lad on entering, seeing the monument which he mistook for a gentleman, thus addressed it, "Sir, is Mr. ——— here," to this question of course no answer was returned, the lad again repeated it, still remaining mute, the lad calls out "Wont ye speak," shortly after finding the individual he wanted, he told his master, that he found Mr. ——— in the justice room, but the old gentleman in the corner would not answer him."

The town gaol is underneath the hall, and in the cellars, (which were formerly a workshop of a son of St. Crispin, for which a rent was paid to the corporation,) are kept the market stalls, &c.

For such a fashionable watering place as Melcombe has arisen to, the Guildhall is far, very far from being an ornament; it stands in a very tottering state, and is obliged to be artificially supported at every trial of the elective franchise; some few years since a member of the corporate body offered to erect a handsome edifice, upon certain conditions, which were not acceded to, it is to be hoped that some public spirited chief magistrate will set on foot some plan, to adorn the town with a respectable Guildhall.

THE ALMS-HOUSES.

Erected by Sir J. Thornhill, were intended by him for decayed mariners, but owing to their not being endowed, the benevolent intentions of the founder were rendered abortive, though still they were occupied by individuals as a charitable bequest; they were situated at the entrance of the town, and were built of Portland stone with a semispherical boundary, and were of low structure, it came into possession of the Johnstone family, and as the town increased in population, this spot was eagerly seized upon for erecting houses, the paupers were obliged to vacate their residences, and were pro-

vided with other dwellings; the alms-houses were demolished and the ground was taken by the trustees, who demised the land to builders for 99 years or three lives for near £500, and buildings to the value of £4000 have been erected on the spot, the rents of the dwellings to which the paupers were removed from 1814 to 1824, for 5 houses at £6 6*s*. per annum amounted to £338 12*s*. 8*d*. there is still some small portion of the alm-houses remaining, and also a part of the yard, which in the course of a few years will most probably be swallowed up by the same manœuvering.

THE FORTS.

MELCOMBE and Weymouth being a maritime port, frequently lay open to the incursions of predatory vessels of all nations which landing a few armed men, laid wait and carried off what ever they could, this induced forts and castles to be erected; in the history of Weymouth is given an account of several that were constructed for its defence, and commanded the sea approaches to Melcombe, which required few as compared with its neighbour, yet there were some, that were absolutely necessary; one was erected at the then entrance of town upon the spot now occupied by Charlotte Row, it was a square fort built of stone, and called the Block-house, there were embrasures for eight guns, though only five were mounted. 10th of Queen Elizabeth the office of gunner (Vibellator) was granted to Richard Smith for life.

There was another erected northward of the town, there was a rampart on which were mounted three guns, it was called Cotton fort.

There was a third at the extremity of the pier, opposite another on Weymouth side, these defended the Harbour.

Another was erected on the spot of ground, where Mr. Ellis the surgeon's house is, in Grosvenor place, it was called the Round house and commanded the then back entrance to the town, these are all now demolished, and at the present time there is neither castle or fort to defend the town.

Melcombe gave title to the celebrated Bubb Doddington, who made so conspicuous a figure in the annals of this town and as a courtly aspirant.

> " ——————————Examine well,
> His milk white hand, the palm is hardly clean,
> But here and there an ugly smutch appears,
> Foh! 'twas a bribe that left it,—he has touch'd
> Corruption.——————————"

He was the nephew of George Doddington Esq., of Somerset, who dying without issue left him a considerable property, conditionally, that he would assume his name and arms, which he accordingly did, he possessed a magnificent seat at Eastbury in this county, which he begun in 1724 and finished in 1738, at the expense of £140,000, the gardens were extensive in the extreme, and ornamented with canals and various plantations of fir, oak, and laurel, many of which were brought hither from other grounds after 50 years growth and from a considerable distance, the extent of the mansion in front and its different offices was 570 feet; after his decease this superb domain fell to Lord Temple, who offered £200 per annum to any gentleman that would occupy and keep the mansion in repair, but this generous offer not being accepted, it was determined to pull it down and the materials produced little more than the prime cost of the plumbers' and glaziers' work.

He was a wary but an able politician, yet prompted by vanity and spurred on by ambition he made one false step in deserting the service of his majesty George II. for the expectation of leading the councils of Frederick Prince of Wales, this turned out a vain hope, the courtiers about the prince considering him as an intruder, would hold no friendly communications with him, and the two years he remained in that court was a continued scene of bickering and intrigue; his diary from which some extracts have been taken, was not published till 1684, it contains various specimens of royal pastimes, such as visiting conjurers for the purpose of prying into futurity, and it exhibits a grand display of the political intrigues which took place at the British court from 1749 to 1761, it exposes the secret machinery, which was set to work to establish the ministry, which misled the councils of his late majesty on his accession to the throne, and shows up the mean and paltry machinations of a court sycophant.

4th Geo. I., 1715, was appointed plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to the court of Spain, M. P. for Melcombe several times, re-appointed by the king, treasurer of the Navy, December 22th, 1755, created baron Melcombe Regis, April 13th, 1761, as a reward for his borough interest.

Doddington resigned into his late majesty's hands, March 11th, 1749, his appointment as treasurer of the Navy, and in July 18th, 1749, was appointed by his new master Frederick Prince of Wales, governor of the chambers with a salary of £2000.

It is mentioned that upon his appointment to the court of Spain, a friend of his told him that he would make but a feeble impression on the Spanish court. "Why?"

asked Doddington. "Because your name is against you, the Spaniards you are aware are a nation fond of their titles and names, now yon are plain Bubb, Bubb, Bubb. I would earnestly advise you to increase the length of this monosyllable." "How?" "Add *sylly* to it, and then it will be *sylly*-bubb."

January 18th, 1762. His majesty's birth-day was celebrated with an uncommon degree of splendour, and among the title throng was found Lord Melcombe; his lordship was no mean adept at the art of booing at all times, but whether on this important occasion of presentation, he bowed too low, or had been too negligent on adorning himself, is a matter of little moment; but most certain it is, that to the great discomfiture of the statesmen and horror stricken dismay of the noble fair, the band of his inexpressibles gave way at a very critical moment, which obliged his lordship to support them with both his hands, and he retired from the royal presence "bearing his blushing honours thick upon him," meeting his majesty shortly after, he began to apologize to him for this indecorous occurrence, but the king in the most good natured manner interrupted him, saying "Pooh! Pooh! Doddington, don't mention it, don't mention it, you managed it very well indeed, but remember you deduct for the band, when you pay your tailor's bill."

During the time he was attached to the court of Frederick Prince of Wales, when they resided in Leicester house, the poet Thomson was frequently a visitor at the house, and when once on being called upon to recite a piece of poetry before the family, he performed it with so little credit to his own powers, that Doddington, who had a considerable share of acumen, snatched the MSS. from his hands, and finished the reading of it. "It appears," says the poet, "that an author cannot always read his own works." "It matters not" replied the prince, "if others can read them and enjoy their beauties."

Some extracts from his diary having already been inserted where allusion has been made to the explanatory charter, which he obtained for the town, it might not be ill-placed to insert it here:—

George the Second, by the grace of God, &c. To all to whom these presents, shall come greeting.

"WHEREAS, our trusty and well beloved the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty of our borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the county of

Dorset, have by their petition humbly represented unto us (amongst other things therein contained.) That the said borough and town was incorporated by a charter, granted by our royal predecessor king James I., bearing date the 1st day of July, in the fourteenth year of his reign, by the name of the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, burgesses and commonalty of the borough and town aforesaid, which charter was accepted and has been acted under ever since; that his said majesty king James I., by his said charter was pleased to ordain and direct, that from thenceforth for ever there should be within the said borough and town, one of the burgesses or inhabitants of the said town, who should be, and be called mayor, and also, divers men of the said borough and town, who should be, and, be called aldermen of the said borough and town, and also, two other men of the said borough and town, who should be, and be called bailiffs of the said borough and town, and also, four-and-twenty other men of the said borough and town, who should be, and be called capital and principal burgesses of the said borough and town; and did also, thereby constitute and appoint the first mayor, eleven aldermen, two bailiffs, and four-and-twenty principal burgesses by name, who should be the first in the said respective offices under the said charter, and for their succession and filling up vacancies therein respectively as they should happen, his said majesty was pleased to ordain and direct by the said charter, that the mayor and aldermen of the said borough and town, for the time being, or the major part of them from time to time, and at all times thereafter, might and should have the sole and full power and authority of electing and naming, and that they might and should elect and name yearly, and every year for ever, in the Guildhall of the said borough and town, or within any other convenient place within the said borough and town, out of which four to be named and chosen, the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, principal burgesses, and other burgesses, and inhabitants of the said borough and town, for the time being, (being also there on the same day met together and assembled for that purpose) might and should have full power and authority by the majority of the votes of them, being so met together to elect and prefer one to be mayor of the said borough and town; and that his said majesty did further grant by the said charter, that the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and principal burgesses of the said borough and town, for the time being, or the major part of them from time to time, and at all times thereafter, might and should have the power and authority of electing and naming, and that they might and should elect and name, being met together and assembled in the Guildhall

of the borough and town aforesaid, upon the said feast or day of St. Matthew the Apostle, every year for ever, two of the burgesses or inhabitants of the said borough and town, to be bailiffs of the said borough and town.

"And further that if it should happen that the aldermen of the said borough and town, for the time being, or any one or more of them, should at any time for the future die, or be amoved from their office or depart, (which said alderman, or any, or either of them for misbehaviour or any other reasonable cause, his said late majesty willed should be removable, by the mayor, and rest of the aldermen, bailiffs and principal burgesses of the said borough and town for the time being, or the major part of them); and at the time of the death, amotion or departure of such alderman, or aldermen, there should not be eight surviving and remaining, that then, and so often it should and might be lawful for the mayor and the surviving and remaining aldermen, and also for the bailiffs and principal burgesses of the said borough and town, for the time being, or for the major part of them, being met together in the Guildhall of the said town, for that purpose, to elect and prefer so many as should be wanting of the said number of eight aldermen, out of the burgesses or inhabitants of the said borough and town, to be an alderman or aldermen, of the said borough and town.

"And the petitioners further humbly represented to us, that they apprehended that by the said charter, an alderman, and also a capital and principal burgess of the said borough and town, (if inhabitant) were capable of being nominated and elected mayor or bailiff of the same, as well as any other inhabitant or burgess thereof, but that they find they and their predecessors have been under a mistake and misapprehension, with respect to their construction and sense of the said charter of king James, in relation to the said nomination and election of a mayor, and also bailiffs of the said borough and town, it having been lately determined by a judgment in our Court of King's Bench, and affirmed in Parliament, in the nature of a Quo Warranto against Richard Tucker, Esq., to shew by what authority he claimed to be mayor of the borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, that an alderman of the said borough and town although an inhabitant or burgess is not capable of being nominated or elected a mayor of the said borough and town, and therefore judgment of Ouster was given against the said Richard Tucker, by reason that he was an alderman at the time he was nominated and elected mayor.

"And the petitioners further humbly represent unto us, that by the construction put upon the words of the said

charter, by the said judgment in relation to the incapacity of an alderman, being put upon nomination and of being elected mayor of the said borough and town, the same will as they humbly apprehend, from a parity of reason and construction extend in like manner to the election of bailiffs, and doth render an alderman or principal burgess of the said borough and town, although an inhabitant or burgess, also incapable of being elected a bailiff of the said borough and town, and the same construction doth also render a principal burgess of the said borough and town, although an inhabitant or burgess, incapable of being nominated or elected either a mayor or an alderman, or one of the bailiff's of the said borough and town; and that this construction of the said charter, already appears greatly inconvenient to the petitioners, and to the said borough and town in several instances, and for several reasons the petitioners therefore having most humbly prayed that, We, would be most graciously pleased in consideration of the premises to extend our royal favour to the said borough and town, and to grant unto the said mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, burgesses and commonalty thereof, a new grant or charter, to explain their said charter or letters patent so ganted to them by our late royal predecessor king James I., whereby the aldermen of our said borough and town, being inhabitants and burgesses thereof, may be rendered capable of being nominated and elected to the offices of mayor and bailiffs of the said borough and town, and the principal burgesses of the said borough and town, being inhabitants and burgesses thereof, be rendered capable of being nominated and elected to the several offices of mayor, aldermen and bailiffs of the said borough and town, and also to confirm the said charter, or letters patent so as aforesaid, granted by our said royal predecessor king James I., in all other respects as we should think fit.

"We taking the premises into our royal consideration, and for remedy of the inconvenience complained of in the said petition, and of the defect in the said recited letters patent, and for the explanation of the same, are graciously pleased to condescend to their request.

"Know ye therefore, That, We of our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have granted, ordained and appointed, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and predecessors, do will, grant, ordain, and appoint, that the aldermen, for the time being, of our borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the county of Dorset, shall and may be capable for ever hereafter of being, and shall and may be nominated for, and elected to, and hold the respective offices of

mayor and bailiffs of the said borough and town, both at the annual elections, and, or any vacancy that shall happen by death, amotion, or other determination of such offices in the manner prescribed by the said recited letters patent, for the election of a mayor and bailiffs of the said borough and town; and that the capital and principal burgesses of the said borough and town, shall, and may be capable of being, and shall, and may be nominated for, and elected to, and hold the several, and respective offices of mayor, aldermen and bailiffs, of the said borough and town; and our further will and pleasure, and we do by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant and ordain, That the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, burgesses and commonalty of the borough and town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the said county of Dorset, and their successors shall and may have, hold, use and enjoy for ever hereafter all liberties, authorities, jurisdictions, franchises, and privileges granted by the said recited letters patent of king James I., not altered in and by these presents.

"AND lastly, We do by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, grant unto the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs and principal burgesses, of the said borough and town, and their successors, that these our letters patent on the enrolment or exemplification thereof, shall be in, and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient and effectual in the law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, notwithstanding We not truly and fully reciting the said letters patent or the date thereof, or any the omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause or thing whatsoever, to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

"In Witness, &c., the Nineteenth day of August, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Forty Seven.

"By Writ of Privy Seal."

This is a true copy from the original record, remaining in the Chapel of the Rolls, having been examined.—Signed,

JOHN KIPLING.

Lord Melcombe, died in 1762, without issue, and with him the title became extinct.

POPULATION.

THE population of these towns is considerably altered since the time of the Edwards, when the number of burgesses consisted of 12, and at another time, so variable was the population that only 8 burgesses were left.

The population of Weymouth in 1802, according to the census, consisted of 1207 inhabitants, and 243 houses, in 1811, of 1747 inhabitants; in 1821, of 1061 males and 1309 females. Total 2370, being an increase in 9 years of 480, and in 19 years of 1103 individuals. The population of Melcombe is of course somewhat larger, in 1811, it amounted to 2927, and in 1821, to 4252, being in 10 years, an increase of 1325 individuals, thus the population of both towns by the last census, is as follows:—

Weymouth,	2370
Melcombe,	4252
Total,	6622

Though this number is very considerably increased in the summer season, by the number of additional visitors and augmentations by other sources; in Melcombe, there were 1796 males, and 2456 females; there being an evident superiority in both towns of the number of females. There were also 639 inhabited houses; 840 houses occupied by families; 51, uninhabited; 34, building; 20 families wholly employed in agriculture; 698, employed in professions and trade; and 140 other families. The number of tenements liable to the parochial rates, are near 2000:—

Melcombe Regis,	1100
Weymouth, . .	750
Total,	1850

The following is an authentic list of the number of burials and baptisms in Melcombe parish for the last six years.

BAPTISMS.

From January 1st, 1823, to December 31st, 1823, . .	133
From January 1st, 1824, to December 31st, 1824, . .	127
From January 1st, 1825, to December 31st, 1825, . .	151
From January 1st, 1826, to December 31st, 1826, . .	108
From January 1st, 1827, to December 31st, 1827, . .	96
From January 1st, 1828, to December 31st, 1828, . .	127
Total,	743

BURIALS.

From January 1st, 1823, to December 31st, 1823, . .	47
From January 1st, 1824, to December 31st, 1824, . .	88
From January 1st, 1825, to December 31st, 1825, . .	50
From January 1st, 1826, to December 31st, 1826, . .	54
From January 1st, 1827, to December 31st, 1827, . .	56
From January 1st, 1828, to December 31st, 1828, . .	51
Total,	346

Baptisms in six years, ...	743
Burials in six years, ...	346
Increase in population,	397

The number of women that have been relieved by the Dorcas Lying In Institution in 17 years, amount to 1710.

That some idea may be formed of the difference of population in this town and its immediate neighbourhood, the following allusion to a few is inserted.

In Wyke,—	Males,	477
	Females,	437
	Total,	914
In Chickerell,—	Males,	155
	Females,	152
	Total,	307
In Fleet,—	Males,	65
	Females,	67
	Total,	132
In Radipole,—	Males,	113
	Females,	113
	Total,	226
In Sutton Pointz,—	Males,	167
	Females,	170
	Total,	237

In Preston,—Males,		67
	Females,	75
	Total,	142
In Portland,—Males,		1171
	Females,	1083
In 1821.	Total	2254
In Portland,—Males,		1144
	Females,	1110
In 1823,—Total		2254
Inhabited houses,		393
Families, . . .		421

In July 26th, 1827, there were 920 children under twelve years of age.

In Dorchester the number of inhabitants amounted to 2743, and are thus divided:—

In St Peter's parish,	1039
In All Saints ditto,	652
In Holy Trinity ditto,	1052
Total,	2743

Being an increase since 1811, of 197 inhabitants.

In Bath,—Total 46,683; increase since 1817, of 8999 Inhabitants.

In Brighton,—Males,	11319
Females,	13410
Total,	24729
Increase since 1811,	12417
In Devizes,—Total,	4208
In Plymouth,—Males,	4110
Females,	5275
Total,	9385

Being an increase since 1811 of 912.

In Lymington,—Males,	1431
Females,	1733
Total,	3164

Description of Seals in the possession of the Corporation, 1827.

No. I. An Escutcheon, three Lions passant guardant. Inscription—"*Sigill Maioratus Vill. d. Melcome. Reg.*"

No. II. A Ship with three tops, tacked and rigged on the main squaresail, set afore the wind; in the chief, three Chevrons; on the base, three Lions passant guardant. Inscription —"*Sigillum Admiralis de Waymuthe et Melcom. Regis.*"

No. III. A Ship with one topmast, and mast, on two banners fore and aft, an escutcheon quarterly; 1st, a Lion rampant; 2nd, a Castle; 3rd and 4th, ditto. Inscription— "*Sigillum Comunie de Melcoma.*"

No. IV. A Ship, three tops &c., as in No. II.; on the first mast, a small square banner, quarterly; on the main-mast a Castle; on the third mast, an escutcheon, quarterly; 1st, a Lion rampant: 2nd, a Castle; 3rd and 4th, blank.

No. V. A Bridge double embattled, on the sea; over it, an escutcheon; three Lions passant guardant. Inscription— "*Waymovth and Melcomb Regis.*"

No. VI. Ditto, circumscribed with three Cherubs.

No. VII. Common seal, as granted by Robert Cooke, 34th of Elizabeth, May 1st, 1592. Inscription—"*Sigillum Mayior de Waymuth et Melcomb Regis.*"

No. VIII. The same arms. Inscription—"*Sigillum Wylle de Waymuth et Melcom Regis.*"

REMARKS.

No. I. This evidently bears the greatest antiquity, (but there is no date whatever attached to any, and their priority must be rather adduced from circumstances,) this coat of arms belonged to the Kings of England, who were its fee lords, its date must be previous to the 12th century when Edward I., married Elianor of Castile; her arms were subsequently borne by Melcombe Regis. Rapin says that Queen Elianor bore quarterly Gules, a Castle, Or and Argent a Lion rampant, purple, which were the arms of her father, Ferdinand III., king of Castile and Leon, and quartered by him, being the first two coats that were borne quarterly in one shield, and which were afterwards imitated by Edw. III., when he quartered France and England; Henry II., first used 3 Lions on his shield.

No. II. The date probably 1347, when the town furnished its quantum of ships to the siege of Calais, though no other mention is made of the Admiralis, by which probably the

squadron was commanded, and that he should assume a ship as a type of his office is not improbable, to which was added, the then town arms and the Chevrons, which were the arms of the lords of Clare, one of whose family might have been the admiral.

No. III. This must also have been subsequent to Edward's marriage. The inhabitants having adopted Elianor's arms with the ship for a common seal, were in the seal quarterly, which Cooke, though he uses the word in his drawing, leaves the 3rd and 4th department a blank, and moreover the castles are 3 turrets joined, and not as he has depicted them.

No. IV. This must also have existed before the union of the towns; from the unwieldy size of Nos. VII and VIII, are used as a corporation seal to this time.

Nos. V. and VI. These seals from the conjunction of names, were made after the union, 13 Elizabeth. It does not appear that a bridge was ever borne by the town of Weymouth, but such might induce its adoption with the arms of Melcombe; previous to the grant of Robert Cooke, Melcombe seems to have discarded the Lions and adopted Elianor's. No. VI seems to have been made only on account of the large size of the other.

Nos. VII. and VIII, were granted by R. Cooke king at arms, who has embodied in a common seal and a coat of arms, all that had been borne by both towns.

These explanations will account for the different quarterings and banners.

"*Grant of ARMORIAL BEARINGS to the Towne and Corporation of Waymouth and Melcombe Regis, May* 1, 1592.

"To all and singuler as well Nobles and Gentlemen as others to whom theis presents shall come, Robert Cooke, esquire, alias Clarencieulx, principall Herald and Kinge of Armes of the Est, Weste, and Southe partes of this Realme of England, from the Ryuer of Trente Southwards, sendeth greetinge.

"Whereas the Towne of Waymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the Countye of Dorsett,, beinge some tymes two severall townes, and so had continued bye a verye longe tyme, and latelye unyted by Acte of Parliament; and made one towne and corporacon, by the name of the Mayore, Aldermen, Bay-lyefes, Burgesses, and Comynaltye, of the Towne of Way-

mouth and Melcombe Regis, in the Countye of Dorsett, as by the said Acte of Parlyment thereof made, in the thirteenth yeare of the Reigne of oure most gracyous and Sovereigne Ladye Elizabeth the Queene's Matie. that now is, appeareth:

"And, Whereas, John Brooke, nowe Mayore of ye said Towne and Corporacon, instantlye Required me the said Clarencieulx Kinge of Armes, to sett downe, delyuer, and confyrme vnto the said Towne and Corporacon, such Armes as maye Lawfullye be sett in ye seales of the said Towne and Corporacon, accordinge and agreeable to the Ancyent Armes and Seales now shewed vnto me; and heretofore, this in the severall Townes vsed and contynved severallye before they were thus vnyted together, beyonde the tyme of the memorye of man. Which theyr Request therein beinge both reasonable and verye expedyent, I have granted vnto and donne accordinglye, And thervpon by theis presents, doe sett downe and appoynte to ye said Towne and Corporacon of Waymouth and Melcombe Regis and their successors for ever, their, for their Armes as followeth, that is to saye, azure a shippe wth. three toppes tacled and rygged, gould vppon ye waves of the Sea proper, vppon ye first and last mast twoe square banners, the first ppale gules and verte, three lyons passant guardant in pale gould, ye second quarterlye argent and gules, in ye first a lyon rampt., purple; in ye second a castle gould; vpon ye Hull of ye said shippe an escocheine pfece gould and gules, in ye first three cheverons of ye second; on ye second three lyons passant gardant of ye first.

"And for their comon Seall azure a bridge doble embateled argent standing in ye sea prop, in ye cheif an escocheine pfece gould and gules, on ye first three cheverons gules; on ye second, three lyons passant gardant, in pale gould; as more plainlye appeareth depicted in the margent, Which said Armes and everye pte and pcell thereof, I the said Clarencieulx Kinge of Armes, by vertue of myne Office, and by power, authorytye to me comytted, by Letters patents vnder ye great Seale of England, doe by theis presents ratifye, confyrme, grante, and delyuer vnto the said Mayore, Aldermen, Baylyefes, Burgesses, and Comynalty of the said Towne of Waymouth and Melcombe Regis, and to theire successors for ever, and they ye same to vse, beare, and shewforthe at all tymes, and in all places hereafter accordynge to ye lawes of Armes, wt.owt ye lett Impedyment or Interuption of any pson. or psons.

"In wytness whereof, I ye said Clarencieulx Kinge of Armes, have herevnto Subscribed my name and lykewise putt

toe ye Seale of myne Office, dated ye first daye of Maye. in ye yeare of our Lord God 1592, and in ye thyrtye and fverthe yere of ye Reigne of our most gracious soveraigne Lady Queene Elizabeth.

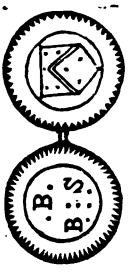
"Robt. Cooke alias Clarencieulx.

"Roy D'Armes."

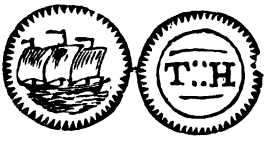
TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.

It appears from and during the time of queen Elizabeth to Charles II., the tradesmen and victuallers coined small money or tokens for the convenience of trade, and which at that time was very much wanted as very few farthings were coined by authority, and these were very much deteriorated in value; queen Elizabeth was very averse to this coining, but in 1594, permission was granted to the mayor of Bristol, to coin a token, this was afterwards followed by other towns, though without any authority, from government; Weymouth fell in with the stream and several were coined; their figure was generally round and the device as fancy dictated, and were composed of tin, copper, brass, and lead; every community and tradesmen was obliged to take them again, a sorting box divided into different apartments was usually kept, into each division were thrown those that were issued by one individual, which were returned to the party coining and exchanged for silver. In 1672, Charles II., having coined a sufficient quantity of halfpence and farthings for the exigencies of the state, these "nummorum famuli," were superseded as being an infringement of the King's prerogative, they are now exceedingly scarce, and are only to be found in the possession of individuals, who are very choice over the custody of them, they are about the

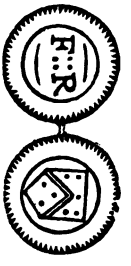
The Town Token.



Bartholomew and Sarah Beer In Melcomb, 1663.

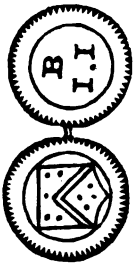


Thomas Hyde, in Waymovth, 1664.

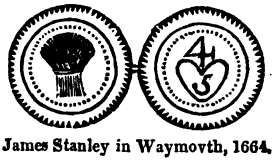


Francis Read In Waymovth.

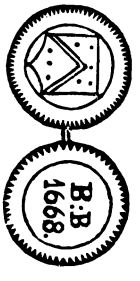
John and Rebecca Senior in Waymovth and Melcomb Regis.



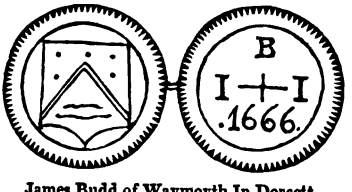
John Beer In Waymovth and Melcomb Regis.



James Stanley in Waymovth, 1664.



Bartholomew Beer In Waymovth.



James Budd of Waymovth In Dorcett, His Halfpeny.

size of a sixpence though a few are a little larger, especially the town coins. They have generally on the obverse the arms of their craft or trade with their names, and on the reverse their own or wife's initials, their residence and date; the names on them are, James Budd, of Weymouth in Dorcett, his halfpenny, 1666; Bartholomew Beer in Waymouth, 1658; Francis Reed in Waymouth; John Sendir of Waymouth; Thomas Hide, Waymouth and Melcombe Regis; James Stanly, in Waymouth, 1664; John Beere in Waymouth, 1664. The corporation feeling desirous also to assume the prerogative of royalty, issued a token, the following is an extract from their records. Fol. 328, "Att a full Hall held on Friday, the fifth daye of Novembre, 1669, 21, Car. II., Regis." "Alsoe yt ys agreede uppon, Thatt Mister Deputie Maior bée pleased to laie outt Tenn pounds in ffarthynges, for the Townes use and profitt of the Poore, the superscription on the one side to be "A'Waymouth Ffarthyng," and on the other syde "For the Poore," with the Towne Armes," they must also have issued another, having on the obverse "A Weymouth Farthing for the Poor, 1669," and on the reverse "The Town Arms."

Abstract of returns made by the Ministers and Churchwardens of Charitable Donations, pursuant to the act of 27th George III., 1786.

Lady Browne, by will dated 1632, gave £50 in money, the interest whereof was to pay yearly 20*s.* to repair the church, and the rest to the poor of Weymouth, vested in Francis Steward, Esq., treasurer of the corporation of the borough and town, annual produce, £3 0*s.* 0*d.*

Bernard Mitchell, by will dated March 22nd, 1646, proved May 25th, 1647, gave to the poor of Weymouth and Wyke Regis, a moiety of 10 bushels of sea coal yearly, and to be paid in money £1 13*s.* 4*d.* out of his freehold lands, or as his executors Bernard Pley and Edward Frampton should appoint, also to six poor widows of Melcombe Regis, 6 bushels of sea coal yearly for ever, vested in the minister and churchwardens of Melcombe Regis; but nothing of this charity has been received for 19 years or more. By the best information this charity when received, arose from the rents of the King's Head Inn in Melcombe Regis; coal was not then in general use, wood being burnt.

Doctor De Sella Nova, by will dated 1684, gave £5 in money, the interest to be paid yearly to the poor of Weymouth, vested in the corporation annual produce £5; also, a leasehold shop in Weymouth to the poor of Weymouth, vested in the churchwardens, annual produce £1; also, £5 in money to the poor of Melcombe Regis, vested in the corporation, annual produce 2*s.* 6*d.*

Sir Samuel Mico, knight and merchant in London, by will dated 1666, gave some lands viz, the George Inn in Melcombe Regis, to the corporation, the annual produce of which he directs to bind out poor apprentices, annual produce £15; also, by will dated May 26th, 1666, gave £400 to the corporation of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, to be laid out in lands and out of the rents thereof to pay £20 per annum, for a sermon, to be preached in Melcombe church, on Friday before Palm Sunday, and the remainder to be distributed among 10 poor decayed seamen of 60 years old and upwards, belonging to Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, vested in Francis Steward, treasurer of the corporation, annual produce, £26.

The lands are situated in the parish of Osmington, and are now (1829,) let for £75 per annum, and during the late war were rented so high as £100.

Robert Middleton, by will date uncertain, gave £100 to be divided and lent to 4 young merchants of the town of Melcombe, for 3 years at 5 per cent. per annum, which was to be given weekly in bread to the poor, and at the end of the 3 years the money to be paid, and lent to 4 other young merchants on their bond. In the year 1616, this it appears was lent to Henry Knight, Owen Holman, William Pitt, and William Williams, and seems to have been regularly lent to one set of young men, till the time of the civil wars, when the papers and records of this town were destroyed; and about the year 1664, this money was reduced to £50, and then lent to two young merchants, how it was lessened does not appear. In 1695, Swetman, one of the recipients of the loan, was prosecuted for his share £25, which was never recovered and thus it fell to one fourth of its original sum, and from that period no other circumstances appear, than £1 5*s.* being paid annually to the overseers for the use of the poor, vested in the corporation.

William Hodder, by will dated 1688, gave £10 in money, the interest to be paid to the poor of Melcombe Regis, vested in the corporation.

Madam Haysom, gave 1704, £30 in money, to bind out 3 poor boys apprentices; viz, T. Holman, E. Harvey, and H. Chick, which was done accordingly.

Jonathan and Rebecca Edwards, by deed in trust, dated January 14th, 1716, on the death of Thomas Dyer, a survivor, who was buried December 28th, 1748, gave some lands to four poor widows, dwelling in Weymouth side only, it formerly produced only £2 per annum, vested in the heirs of Mr. John Carsewell, annual produce £10.

This charity seems to have been secreted and withheld about 16 years past by Simon Jenkins, Serjeant at Mace; knowing it to have been a charity, and pretending to have bought it of Martha Ford, a widow, for life for 3*s.* a week, and having lent it to Richard Oakley and James Trim, for 7 years, for the sum of £10 per annum.

John Carsewell, by deed dated April 16th, 1741, gave some land, the interest thereof to be paid to four poor widows of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, during the time only there shall be no dissenting meeting or residing minister in Weymouth or Melcombe Regis; upon supposition that the toleration would cease, and that protestant dissenters should not be tolerated, vested in the heirs of William Crosman, and in the trustees of the Dissenting Meeting-house in Melcombe, possessed by Mr. Wilkins, annual produce £8, and is thus divided Weymouth, £1 10*s.*, and Melcombe, £6 10*s.*; Mr. W. was formerly a dissenting minister here, this seems to have been merely a rewilling of Edwards's charity.

Jonathan Taylor, by will dated August 24th, 1753, gave a sum of money, to purchase twelve penny loaves of wheaten bread, for 50 poor men and women of Weymouth and Melcombe, who receive no alms from the parish; to be distributed at the discretion of the minister, mayor, and churchwardens of Weymouth, in whom it is vested.

He also by the same will, gave £70 in money, for the maintenance of two boys at school, to be instructed in the art of navigation for ever; vested in the mayor, aldermen, minister, and churchwardens of Weymouth.

This will was litigated in Chancery, and about the year 1768, the legacy which was to carry interest at 4 per cent., to be paid together with 10 years interest; viz. £28 was paid to the treasurer of the corporation, and because the purposes of this legacy, have been but lately known it hath been hitherto unapplied, but the trust mean to apply it as soon as they can procure a sufficient master.

The boys are now educated at the Town hall in Weymouth. Eighteen years interest upon the sum paid to the corporation £98, to September 22nd, 1786, the date of this return, at which time it remained unapplied, will amount at 4 per cent. to £70 11*s.* 2½*d.*, and presuming the corporation to have soon

after, found a proper master, they would have had an increased means of extending the wishes of the founder.

Bernard Mitchell appears to have been of a very charitable disposition, as independant of what he bestowed on the poor of Weymouth, Wyke, and Melcombe; he by the same will gave to the poor of Bridport, Bere Regis, Abbotsbury, Wareham, Wimborne, and Milborne St. Andrews, 20*s.* per annum; and to the poor of Langton Herring, and Fleet, 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum, these were all derived from rents out of the King's Head Inn in Melcombe. In 1825, the overseers of Bridport parish paid the author a pauper's bill, £1 of which he received on account of the parish, from the tenant of the Inn.

John Stamp of Reading, left by will dated 1720, the manor of Heathfield in trust, for the better maintenance of the dissenting ministers of Weymouth, Wareham, and Reading, to each £25 per annum, and the remainder to such in or about London, as had not £40 per annum; but on account of the widow sueing for her thirds of her husband's estates, it was given by a decree in chancery to other persons.

These are the returns of the commissioners, but the only charities that are now existant are the following, which are inserted on a board suspended in Melcombe church.

Sir Samuel Mico, donation £400; Lady Browne, Mr. Hodder, Doctor De Sella Nova, Madam Haysom, Robert Middleton, and Mr. Browne; the will of Sir Samuel Mico's being one of great interest in the town, the subjoined extract from the will is here inserted, it bears date September 25th, 1665.

"Item. I give Tenn pounds to the town of Melcombe Regis, in the county of Dorset; I give my house standing on the east end of the Key of that town, called the George Tavern or Inn; with the yards or any grounds thereunto belonging, with the profits thereof, to put out three poor children apprentices yearly; to the corporation of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, in the county of Dorset. I give Four hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be laid out in lands, the profits thereof to be bestowed; twenty shillings yearly to some good divine that they shall yearly chuse, when he hath preached a Sermon in the church of Melcombe aforesaid, on the Friday immediately before Palm Sunday, every year; the rest to be paid that day to tenn poor decayed seamen of that corporation, of the age of three score years or upwards, in equal proportions or so many of them within that number that are so qualified, who are to be at the hearing of that Sermon, or so many of them as are able."

Thomas Hardy of Melcombe Regis, by deed dated August

3rd, 1576, 23rd, Elizabeth, gave in houses and lands for the better maintenance of a schoolmaster and usher in Dorchester, for the instruction and education of children in good discipline vested in the earl of Dorchester, Edmund Merton Pleydell, Thomas Gundry, David Robert Mitchell, and Nathaniel Bond, Esqs., William Templeman, William Davis, Robert Lambert, Richard Cozins, and William Gundry, Gents., annual produce £40 8*s*.

He also gave certain other sums which were thus divided: to the clergyman at St. Peter's £20; to a schoolmaster £20; to the usher 20 nobles, (£6 13*s*. 4*d*.;) and to the almswomen five marks, (£3 6*s*. 8*d*.;) in St. Peter's church Dorchester, is a white marble mural tablet erected "By the Bayliffs and Burgesses of Dorchester, in testimony of their gratitude, and to commend to posterity an example so worthy of imitation."

Robert Greenless alias Bakere of Dorchester, bequeathed from his tenements in Dorchester and Melcombe Regis, to the fraternity of De Corpore in St. Peter's church, one mark.

Between 1587 and 1594, six persons were put to death in Dorchester, on account of their religious opinions, and in consequence of the severe penal statutes then existant, after they were executed, the bodies were quartered and exposed in the following places:—Upway, Sutton, Preston, Osmington, Wyke, Winfrith, Broadmayne, Radipole, Piddletown, Bincombe, Winterbourne, Weymouth.

The twelve commissioners for the investigating the public charities throughout England, in their report to parliament, May 29th, 1828, state that the amount of public charities, (excepting fifteen counties not visited, among which Dorset is included,) is between £480,000 and £500,000 per annum. How magnificent is this fund for public education, and how ample if well applied for educating the whole of the rising generation! and how great must have been the malversation which required the investigation; there is no question but that many charities which were intended by the founders to benefit the poor of their own towns, have been shamefully abused, and those who were entrusted with the sacred charge, have betrayed it, and robbed the fatherless and the widow; still, a day of reckoning must come, and greater will be their condemnation.

The expenses of the commissioners in the year 1827, were £14,000, and in 1828, £17,335 2*s*. 1*d*.

Brief Notices of individuals connected with the towns, either as Members of Parliament, or of the Corporation.

Henry Russell of Weymouth, M. P. for Weymouth, 3rd., 11th., and 20th., of Henry VI., was a great benefactor to the Catholic Chapel once existing on the Chapelry.

John Wadham of Catherstone, Custos of Sandesfoott Castle, was M. P. for Weymouth, 1st Queen Mary.

Thomas Arthur of Weymouth, was Sheriff of Dorsetshire, 1st Henry IV.

A William de Wy appears as representative for Weymouth, 15th Edward III.

The Bond family were connected with Weymouth in several ways. 1588. John Bond Captain of Portland castle, married Margaret, daughter of Richard Pitt of Melcombe Regis, he was mayor of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis 1589, 1598, 1612, and four of the Bonds were successive recorders of the borough, one of whom, Dennis, was one of the Commissioners for the sale of the Earl of Derwentwater's estates, with a salary of £1000 per annum, the house of Commons resolved July 30th, 1723, that he was guilty of a notorious breach of trust, as a Commissioner, and it was resolved *nem. con.* that he should for his second offence, be expelled the house; there is also frequent mention of him in the rolls of Parliament: viz.

"Die veneris 5to., die Maii, 1732.

"Resolved, that Denis Bond, Esq., he being concerned as one of the Committee of the Charitable Corporation, for the relief of industrious poor, by assisting them with small sums upon pledges of legal interest, in promoting, abetting, and carrying on several indirect and fraudulent practices in the management of the affairs of the corporation, and having thereby occasioned great losses to many of his majesty's subjects, ought to make a just satisfaction for the same; it was ordered that leave be given to bring in a bill to compel him and the other defaulters, for discovering their estates and effects, and for preventing the transportation or alienating the same."

It appears that again he attracted the attention of the house, as in the minutes of the house is the following:—

"Die Veneris, 27to die Aprilis, 1733."

The above resolution was again entered into. The dificit altogether amounted to £487,895 14*s.* 10¾*d.*! he had 160 shares which were valued at £71,960.! On his visiting Corfe Castle, July, 1733, he was received with such marks of indignation, that he was obliged to leave the place. Charles, Duke

of Bolton, Custos Rotulorum of Dorset, appointed July 6th, 1715, Dennis Bond, Esq., his deputy during pleasure, and at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions of Dorset, 1715, it was ordered that payment of the Trophy or White Coat money be made to Dennis Bond, Esq., amounting to £641 13*s.* for buying of arms for the militia of Dorset, and he is empowered to receive it for that purpose.

In Mr. John Fisher's account of the White Coat money expended, there is this item referring to Weymouth.

"1688, December 18th. Paid to George Francis for bringing armes from Weymouth, £2 10*s.*"

Dennis Bond of Lutton, was a great favourite of the Protector, and made one of the council of the state, M. P., 1654, was comptroller of the receipt of the Exchequer, and his salary was £500 per annum; he voted for the crown and the title of King should be offered to Oliver Cromwell.

John Bond, L. L. D., was fellow of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, and professor of law at Gresham, was also appointed preacher before the Long Parliament, and one of the assembly of divines, recorder, 1645, M. P., 19th Charles II.

Nathaniel Bond, L. L. B., recorder, 1654, made one of the King's serjeants, 1689.

John Ward of Hackney, M. P. 8th George I., expelled the house for forgery, May 16th, 1726, and who stood in the pillory, 1727; at his death was found in his own hand writing the following hypocritical prayer:—

"Oh Lord, thou knowest that I have nine houses in the city of London, and likewise that I have lately purchased an estate in fee simple, in the county of Essex,— I beseech thee to preserve the two counties of Middlesex and Essex, from fires and earthquakes, and as I have a mortgage in Hertfordshire, I beg of thee likewise to have an eye of compassion on that county, and for the rest of the counties thou mayest deal with them as thou art pleased! Oh Lord, enable the bank to answer all their bills, and make all my debtors good men. Give a prosperous voyage and return to the Mermaid sloop, because I have insured it, and as thou hast said that the days of the wicked are but short, I trust in thee that thou wilt not forget thy promise, as I have purchased an estate in reversion, which will be mine on the death of that most profligate young man, Sir J. L——; keep my friends from sinking, and preserve me from thieves and house-breakers, and make all my servants so honest and faithful, that they may attend to my interest, and never cheat me out of my property night or day."

Ward was suspected of joining in a conveyance with Sir J. Blunt, to secure £50,000 of that director's estate, forfeited to

the South Sea; the company recovered the £50,000 against Ward, but he set up prior conveyances of his estate to his brother and son, and concealed all his personals, which were supposed to be £150,000, these were all set aside by a bill in Chancery, and Ward was imprisoned several years.

Colonels John Clarke and Waldine Lagoe, M. P's. for Weymouth during the Protectorship, with others, proclaimed Richard Cromwell Lord Protector.

Welbore Ellis, F. R. S., L. L. D., brother-in-law to H. Stanley, M. P. for Weymouth, and with the celebrated Bubb Doddington, made a great figure in the politics of these towns, Lord of the Admiralty, Secretary of War, Treasurer of the Navy, and joint Vice Treasurer of Ireland.

Being a member of the administration during the committal to the tower of the Lord mayor and alderman Crosby, by the House of Commons, 1771, he became exceedingly unpopular, by moving for a committee to enquire into the cause of the mob which surround the house, they broke his carriage and if he had not escaped, would have lost his life. In 1794, he was created Baron Mendip, which descended to his son.

Richard Bingham of Melcombe Bingham, recorder 1756, was a councellor at law, and practised many years with great credit, married Martha, daughter of W. Batt of Salisbury.

Joseph Damer born March 12th, 1717, married Caroline, daughter of Lionel, Duke of Dorset, 1743; M. P. for Weymouth, 15th George II.; for Bremer, 20th George II.; and for Dorchester, 27th George II.; created a peer of Ireland, 1753, by the title of Baron Milton of Stoneheld in Tipperary, appointed one of his majesty's privy council, and 2nd George III., created a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Baron Milton, of Milton Abbey, Dorset. An ancestor of this family, Thomas de la Mere, or de Attsee, represented Melcombe, 31st Edward III., and Weymouth, 42nd Edward III.

John Strangeways, Knight of Melbury Samford, M. P. for Weymouth several times, before the civil war, opposed the court, but afterwards espoused the royal cause with great vigour, and suffered extremely for his fidelity to his King, by plunderings and sequestrations. In 1644, he was on the black list who were not to be pardoned; being taken prisoner next year at Sherbourne castle was committed to the tower, but was allowed to compound for his liberty, and offered £7000 which was refused, in 1648, he was disabled as a member for Weymouth, but on his submitting to his fine, and his son remaining as an hostage till it was paid, was released from his incarceration. In 1660, he together with his son and

grandson, were members of the convention Parliament, it was to him Charles II. wrote, when secreted at Trent, near Sherborne.

Giles Strangeways his son, shared deeply in his father's sufferings, he was a Colonel in a regiment of horse. August, 1644, he was fined £10,000 for the service of the navy, and was disabled from being a member for Weymouth, and imprisoned in the white tower for two years and half, and on his liberation, he had a very large gold medal struck, to commemorate his incarceration. Bishop Parker, who has given an excellent account of him, says, "Nemo in sua provincia plus valuit."

William Sydenham of Winford Eagle, Dorset, Commissioner of the Treasury, salary, £1000 per annum, Colonel of a regiment of horse, Governor of the Isle of Wight, and Sandsfoot Castle, M. P. for Melcombe Regis, and with Matthew Allet, M. P. for Weymouth, were recruiters in the Long Parliament. He was governor of Weymouth and Melcombe; in 1644, was Commander in chief of the Parliamentary forces in this county; one of the council of state, salary, £1000 per annum; one of the committee of ten; one of the forty-three, who sat in the house as a house of Lords; and one of the greatest props of the Parliament in this county. This was the individual who destroyed the Catholic Chapel; his brother, Major Francis Sydenham was killed at the siege of Weymouth; he was brother to the celebrated Dr. Sydenham, and maternal grandfather to Sir James Thornhill.

Sir Robert Napier, of Puncknole, master of the Hanaper Office, was about the time of the Oxford Parliament, Charles I. sent for him, knighted him, and appointed him sheriff for the county; in 1645, his family estates were sequestrated; in 1631, he was knighted. In 1725, there was living a branch of his family, and one of them, James Napier, is stiled a "Marchant adventrar."

William Cecil, Lord Cranborne, son of the celebrated minister, Sir Robert Cecil, afterwards Earl of Salisbury, M. P. for Weymouth, 1st James I.; the present family are descended from him. 53rd George III., John Brownlow, William Cecil, Lord Cranborne, the present Marquis of Salisbury, stood a contested election at Weymouth, which 57th George III., he vacated.

Gerard Napier of Middle Marsh Hall, M. P. 16th Charles I., Colonel in a regiment of horse; 1641, his estates were sequestrated, and in 1643, he was disabled from being M. P. for Weymouth; and with Sir William Portman were ordered to be sent for as delinquents for not attending the house, he lost

and spent in the service of Charles I., £10,000; he compounded for his estates at £1200; during the exile of Charles II., he sent by Sir Gilbert Talbot 500 broad pieces, who detained them, upon the restoration, he arrested Sir Gilbert, but through the mediation of the king, he forgave him, and the king to recompence him, ordered him out of the New Forest, a certain number of deer yearly.

Sir Francis Dashwood, bart., M. P., 2nd George III., Lord Lieutenant of Bucks; Chancellor of the Exchequer, raised to the peerage by the stile of Baron Le De Spenser.

John Olmius of Jury Le and New-hall, Essex, of Dutch extraction, born July 18th, 1711, married September 8th, 1741, Anne daughter of Sir William Billars, knight and alderman of London; by whom he had a son John Drigue, and a daughter Elizabeth; created May 8th, 1762, baron Waltham of Philip's Town Ireland, died October 6th, 1762; and was succeeded by his son John Drigue, lord Waltham the father was M. P. several times, and the son 8th George III., and together with lord Melcombe and Mr. Tucker, sold the seats here whenever they thought fit to the highest bidder, as is practised to this time.

Sir Christopher Wren was born at East Knoyle, near Hinden, Wiltshire, 1632; he was the son of a clergyman, and first educated at a private school and finished his studies at Wadham College, Oxford; before he was sixteen years old he had made such rapid progress in mathematics, that he was able to solve the most difficult problems in geometry; and in 1657, was chosen professor of geometry in Gresham College; at the restoration of Charles II., he was appointed Savillian professor at Oxford; the same year the king appointed him surveyor of the board of Works, and the next year he was elected F. R. S. In 1665, when the plague broke out in London he retired to France, and spent his time in studying architecture, having taken plans and sections of the principal edifices in Paris; he returned to England and found London reduced by the Great Fire to an heap of rubbish; he drew up a plan for re-building London, in a manner that would have done honour to the nation, by placing St. Paul's in the centre from which all the streets should diverge in strait lines, but the disputes among proprietors about public property defeated this design. In 1668, he was appointed Surveyor General of the Board of Works, he continued in great favour during the remainder of the reigns of Charles II., James II., William, and Anne; but some time after the accession of George I., he was removed from all his public appointments because he had expressed too much gratitude to his former royal benefactors;

died February 21st, 1723, aged 91. He was 70 years of age when he represented Weymouth, and his probable connection with it arose from his frequent visits to Portland for the stone necessary for his various buildings; it was he who first drew the public attention to the Roman Amphitheatre at Dorchester. He was also Grand Master of the Fraternity of Freemasons.

Sir Lewis Dyves of Bromham, Bedford, commander of the Dorsetshire forces, was taken at the capture of Sherborne Castle with an immense booty, together with colonel Fusell an attorney, once sub-governor of Sandsfoot Castle for the king; before surrendering he sent the following letter to general Fairfax:——

"Sir,

"I must acknowledge the advantage you have of me by being master of my walls, and that you may not think me obstinate without reason, I have sent this drum unto you, to let you know that if I may have such conditions from you, as are fit for a soldier and a gentleman with honour to accept, I shall surrender this castle into your hands; otherwise I shall esteem it a far greater happiness to bury my bones in it, and the same resolution have all those that are with me; and give me leave to add this, that your victory will be crowned with more honor by granting it, than you will gain glory by the wining it with the loss of so much blood as it will cost.

"Sherborne Castle, "Your servant,
"August 15th, 1645. "L. Dyves."

The answer returned was, "No terms but quarter, and he was not to expect that, except he surrendered immediately."

Sir Lewis Dyves and Sir John Strangeways were brought to the bar of the House of Commons, and refusing to kneel, were compelled by force, and both were committed to the Tower for high treason, 1645.

Sir Winston Churchill knight of Glanville Wooton, Dorset; suffered greatly for his adherence to the royal cause, and compounded for £4446, was knighted 1663, and married the daughter of Sir John Drake of Melbury Castle, Devon; and had several children, amongst the rest the celebrated duke of Marlborough, and was author of "Divi Britannici; or, the remarks on all the Kings of this Isle." He stood a contested election for Weymouth, and was returned for the Parliament which met at Westminster, 13th Charles II., May 8th, 1661; but Sir John Strangeways his opponent, being returned by the mayor Thomas Hide, as duly elected, a committee of the House of Commons sat upon the petition, and Winston Churchill, Esq.,

was declared the lawful member, the contest continued for several days, and the uproar and confusion that ensued formed a prototype of which has since too frequently occurred in times more modern. The mayor stopped the poll, and several persons were committed to Newgate for perjury. In a work, entitled "A list of the principal labourers in the Design of Popery and Arbitrary Power." (For the discovery of its author £200 was offered,) there appears the following reference to Sir Winston.

"Sir Winston Churchill, now one of the clerks of the Green Cloth, proferred his own daughter to the duke of York, (James II.,) and has got in boons £10,000; has published in print, that the king may raise money without Parliament."

Charles Churchill son of the above, appears by a monument erected in Mintern to his memory, that he was successively governor of Kingsdale, Ireland, of the Tower of London, of Brussells, and the Island of Guernsey; married the daughter of James Gould, Esq., of Dorchester; he represented Weymouth in several Parliaments.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the first earl of Shaftesbury, proposed to Charles I., that if his majesty would empower him to treat with the parliamentary garrisons, and grant them a full and free pardon, with an assurance that a general amnesty (arms being laid down on both sides,) should reinstate all things in the same posture they were before the war, and then a free parliament finish the good work; he would try the experiment first in his own county (Dorset,) and doubted not but the success he should have there, would open to him the gates of other adjoining garrisons.

Being furnished with the necessary powers, he came into Dorset when he negotiated a treaty with the garrisons at Weymouth, Poole, Dorchester, &c., and raising a regiment for the king's service he possessed himself of Weymouth, &c.; but Prince Maurice, who commanded the king's forces in the west of England, no sooner heard of the surrender but immediately marched hither, and gave his soldiers leave to pillage; this so exasperated Sir Ashley Cooper, that he expressed great resentment to the prince, and gave information to the other garrisons he was in treaty with, to stand on their guard as he could not guarantee his offer to them, and consequently the scheme was abandoned; Lord Clarendon observes, that to give Sir Ashley's efforts more weight, he was promised by the earl of Hertford, the government of Weymouth; but prince Maurice having nominated another, such a misunderstanding occurred between them that gave the king great uneasiness, Charles wished not to disappoint the earl, but unfortunately persisted in obliging the prince his nephew; yet on the honest and spirited remon-

strances of Sir E. Hyde, and the disagreeable consequences which might arise, Charles was with great difficulty prevailed upon to grant his commission to Sir Ashley, to be governor of Weymouth. He however did not long enjoy it, for in the next year 1644, the government was conferred on colonel Ashburnham, to the exclusion of Sir Ashley, who was so disgusted with this diplomatic prevarication, that he quitted a party on whom he could not place any dependance or reliance of confidence, and gave himself to the service of the Parliament, and in 1644, he was appointed governor for the county of Dorset, for the Parliament; he opposed the power of Cromwell, and together with 100 more members were denied admittance into the House of Commons, but afterwards were admitted; he supported the restoration, was created Lord High Chancellor, and what redounds to his credit, scarcely one of his decisions were reversed, he opposed the duke of York's manœuvres who had him impeached and sent to the Tower, but was acquitted, and died in Holland, aged 62; he was also one of the Privy Council to the protector Richard Cromwell.

Honorable Maurice Ashley, represented the county of Wilts and Weymouth in several Parliaments, and was buried with his wife Catharine at Purton, Wilts.

Thomas Pearce, Esq., commissioner of the Navy, M. P. for Weymouth, possessed the Manor of Witchampton, which his heirs sold for £300 per annum, to Sir William Napier, bart., in 1745.

Thomas Hanham of Dean's Court, Wimborne, died August 31st, 1594; M. P. for Melcombe, 14th Edward, also recorder of the borough 1572.

John Hanham of London, M. P. for that rotten borough Eastlooe, Cornwall, 43rd Elizabeth, and for Weymouth, 1st James I., knighted 1606; sheriff of Dorset 12th James I.; died unmarried.

The family of Browne's were early connected with the town, Ralph Browne was M. P. for Melcombe 13th Elizabeth, and Thomas Browne 1678 and 1679.

Captain Richard Clark, a famous pilot and seaman was born here, he accompanied Sir Humphrey Gilbert in his voyage to Nova Zembla, in 1583; he was shipwrecked, but with 14 others were wonderfully saved.

A Richard de Melcome, appears among the list of monks, who chose William de Cattestoke, abbot of Cerne, November 16th, 1451, and again when John de Helyere was elected abbot, October 14th, 1454.

Sir James Thornhill the celebrated historical painter, was a native of Melcombe, his family were early connected with the

town having represented it in Parliament 16th George I., and supported the Parliamentary cause, his uncle, Colonel Sydenham, commanded and afterwards destroyed the chapel of St. Nicholas; he was born 1765; his mother expired shortly after his birth, he was baptized September 7th, 1675. His father was a literary character, and from his antiquarian researches was highly esteemed, he unfortunately involved himself in pecuniary difficulties, and was obliged to sell his estate in Dorset; young Thornhill then applied to some professional pursuit for his future support, he inherited from his father a taste for antiquarian pursuits, and delighted in copying monumental inscriptions, and making himself acquainted with the history connected with them; the celebrated Dr. Sydenham his uncle to whom he applied for support, supplied him with the necessary assistance, to promote what he had an inclination for, a taste for painting, and though he studied under an indifferent master his own native genius and taste, were sufficient to remedy this defect, and the progress he made in painting appeared almost supernatural. He travelled through France and Flanders, where he made purchases of some productions of the best masters, amongst which were the history of Tancred by Poussin, and a virgin of Annibal Carracki. His merit soon raised his reputation to the highest pitch, and had he but visited Italy, he would no doubt have adopted more softness in his compositions, the only fault for which his paintings are distinguishable, being a portion of incorrect harshness; but such was the fire and boldness of his designs, that queen Anne appointed him first historical painter to herself, and ordered him to paint the Dome of St. Paul's; at Hampton Court, he painted an apartment, where the queen and prince George her husband, are represented allegorically, which is also in another manner represented on the walls, these paintings established that fine reputation, yet more firmly than it was before, and he was much employed by those of the nobility that had a taste for paintings, his master piece was the Refectory and Saloon of Greenwich, he also copied the Cartoon of Raphael, for the duke of Bedford, which are now in the University Gallery, Oxford. He also gave as a gift that admired alter piece "The Last Supper," at Melcombe Regis Church, for which he was offered £700.

He was knighted by George II., his finances being improved, he laid out a part of it by re-buying his father's estates at Thornhill, near Stalbridge, where he died in 1734. He was M. P. for his native town 8th George I., and 1st George II.

Judgment and knowledge, true genius and taste distinguish all the works of this eminent artist, yet the eye of the connois-

seur and skilful amateur cannot but discover a species of incorrectness, whether owing to the want of perfect instruction, or from a fault he has shown in crowding too many figures into one piece has not yet been decided, but his talents have been acknowledged by all, to have been productive of grand and rich compositions. It is mentioned that while engaged on the refectory at Greenwich, his attention was so absorbed in viewing the effect produced by his hand, he leant so much out of the perpendicular, that he must have inevitably fallen if an individual who saw the critical state in which he was situated, had not suddenly arrested his attention to a different object, and thus saved him from most probably a premature grave.

His daughter married the inimitable Hogarth when this celebrated individual had made but little progress in the opinion of the world. Sir James was extremly displeased with his daughter Jane, and refused for some time to acknowledge either her or her husband; she contrived to place in his way some of Hogarth's performances, which her father so much admired that he no longer hesitated to countenance them; she was 21 years of age when she married Hogarth, and lived to 80 years, and died in 1789; by her husband's will she received the sole property of his plates, and the copyright by an act of Parliament was secured to her for 21 years after his death, when an advertisement appeared in the papers in 1765, "Of prints published by the late William Hogarth, genuine impressions of which may be had of Mrs. Hogarth, at her house in Leicester Fields, at the price of 13 guineas;" there were 72 prints, &c., each was priced; in the decline of life she became nearly destitute, and received by royal recommendation an annuity of £40 from 1787 to her death, from the funds of the Royal Academy.

Though Sir James was employed upon several subjects of national interest, the advantage that he derived from them were very far from being commensurate either to his merits or his genius, thus for the Dome of St. Paul's he was paid 40*s.* for the square yard, and for the Hall at Blenheim, 25*s.*; this is, it must be confessed, a strong satire upon the taste of the times for appreciating his paintings.

Sir John Murray lieutenant general in the Army, married July 23rd, 1794, Henrietta Laura Pulteney, Countess of Bath, and assumed the name of Pulteney; the Countess's maternal grandfather was the Pulteney who married the daughter of William Floyd, and had issue, William earl of Bath, who dying without issue, the title became extinct. Henry the second son, left issue, Frances, married to Sir William Johnstone who assumed the name of Pulteney, from whom was descended the countess of Bath, wife of Sir J. M. Pulteney, M. P. for Weymouth;

Sir W. Pulteney was descended from the Johnstone family of Annandale, and are ennobled in the title of marquis of Annandale. Sir John Lowther Johnstone of Westerhall and Solway Bank, married Dame Charlotte daughter of Charles Gordon, Esq., earl of Cluny, North Britain; and whilst attending his Parliamentary duties in the House of Commons, March 19th, 1811, was seized with a violent attack of delirium tremens which deprived him of all bodily and mental powers, in which state he lingered till December 24th following, when he expired, leaving his property and this borough in the hands of trustees; wherein the trustees are to demise or lease the premises or any part or parcel thereof, to any person or persons whatsoever, upon any terms they should think proper and to forbear from requiring payment of the rents, and either wholly or partially to remit and release the same and apply the rents in any manner they should think proper, for the advantage of the estate and the persons interested therein; the burgs are now the property of Sir Frederick George Johnstone, bart., a minor.

Sir William Pulteney was successfully opposed in 1775, by the honorable Cosmo Gordon of Cluny, for Cromartyshire, Sir William was at the same time the successful opponent at Shrewsbury of three other candidates.

Sir William Penn, knight, born at Bristol, 1621, of the Penns of Penn's Lodge, in the county of Wilts; he was made a captain at 21, real admiral of Ireland at 23, vice admiral of England at 31, and general in the first Dutch war at 32; whence returning in 1665, he was chosen a Parliament man for Weymouth; 1660, was made commissioner of the admiralty and Navy, governor of the forts and town of Kingsall, was vice admiral of Munster, and a member of that provincial council; and in 1664, was chosen great captain commander under his royal highness in that signal and most evidently successful fight against the Dutch Fleet; thus he took leave of the sea, his old element, but continued his other employments till 1669, when (through bodily infirmities contracted through the care and fatigue of public affairs) he withdrew, prepared and made for his end, and with a gentle and even gale in much peace arrived and anchored in his last and best port, at Wanstead in the county of Essex, September 16th, 1670; being then but 49 years and four months of age. To whose name and merit his surviving lady erected this remembrance.

The above is upon a mural monument in an aisle in Redcliffe church, Bristol, is by far the most beautiful of all churches, which as Leland calls it "Ecclesiarum omnium longe pulcherrima," and Camden, is the most elegant of all parish churches that I have seen in England.—"Ecclesiarum omnium parochialium (quas unquam vidi) elegantissima.

There are also numerous family names that occur in the list of merchants, mayors, &c., that formerly gave the tone to the town, but these, from various causes and the great change in the œconomy of the town, are now perfectly extinct, or at least are so much sunk as to be considered of no importance, till probably some accidental circumstance will again bring them into notice; in the early history of the towns there appear to have been a great many names that are of entirely a local character, and seems to have entered into mercantile speculation in this port, as one of some enterprize, which as it has been shown, appears to have been encouraged by its former feudal lords.

A List of Burgesses returned to represent the Borough of Weymouth in Parliament.

The figures denote the year of each King's Reign, the words in Italics, the places where the Parliament was held, the names, that of the Burgesses returned.

EDVARDUS II.

12 *York*, Robert Long, John Winterbourne.
19 *Wesminster*, Henry Seydon, John de Flete

EDVARDUS III.

9 *York*, Walter Berryl, Laurence Ragger
15 *Westminster*, William de Wy, Thomas Hugh
21 ——— Henry Seydon, John Deghere
29 ——— John de Frampton, Walter de Frampton
34 ——— John de Frampton, Richard Barbour
——— William Doverhead, William Attewall
36 ——— William Seydon, Richard Barbour
42 ——— Richard Vaughan, Thomas de La Mere
43 ——— John Berde, Richard Bedepitcher

RICARDUS II.

2 *Gloucester*, Is not legible in the writ
3 *Westminster*, Philip Seydon, John Gould
6 ——— Thomas Lany, Thomas Dovere
7 ——— Philip Seydon, John Brond
Sarum, William Ford, Richard Flete
8 *Westminster*, John Gosselyn, John Seydon

9 *Westminster*, John Bassingbourne, Thomas Payne
10 ———— John Gosselyne, John Hughlott
11 ———— John Wake, Henry Herte
12 *Cambridge*, Thomas Dovere, John James
13 *Westminster*, Philip Grice, Robert Gebbard
15 ———— Philip Grice, John James
16 *Winchester*, Henry Buddock, John Averay
17 *Westminster*, John Bassingbourne, William Glover
18 ———— John Bassingbourne, Stephen Russell
20 ———— Thomas Cole, John Flete
21 ———— William Ford, Nicholas Crabb

HENRICUS IV.

1 *Westminster*, John Grice, William Clerk
3 *Gloucester*, Robert Penne, William Farringdon
8 ———— John Bassingbourne, John Alday
11 *Westminster*, John Bassingbourne, Thomas Payne

HENRICUS V.

1 *Westminster*, John Wydeford, Robert Penne
2 *Leicester*, John Woodham, John James
5 *Westminster*, Robert Penne, John Prugean
7 *Gloucester*, Peter Dille, William Rose
8 *Westminster*, Robert Penne, Robert Hillany
9 ———— William Payne, John Penne

2do Henrici V. Several boroughs in Dorset, were empowered to elect four inhabitants, who were to choose the burgesses in the borough, those appointed for Weymouth, were—

John Woodham, John Penne
William Clethe, Nicholas Brabb
The three first of whom returned themselves

HENRICUS VI.

1 *Westminster*, John Penne, Roger Dock
2 ———— Robert Shelford, John Abbott
4 *Leicester*, William Wyatt, Humphrey Haye
5 *Westminster*, Henry Russell, John Arnold
6 ———— Henry Russell, Humphrey Haye
8 ———— Richard Gosse, John Shorteberde
11 ———— Henry Russell, William Frampton
13 ———— John Sirle, John Bassingbourne
15 *Cambridge*, Thomas Payne, John Blanchard
20 *Westminster*, Henry Russell, Roger Cheverel

25 *Westminster*, Ralph Bere, Thomas Bury
27 ———— John Fillingby, William Tyrrell
28 ———— John Russell, William Montague
29 ———— William Hall, John Troutbek
31 *Reading*, John Rokes, Thomas Cadrale

These it appears were also returned for the borough of Melcombe :—

33 *Westminster*, Thomas Crouch, Richard Snelling
39 ———— William Browning, John Clerk de Weymouth

EDVARDUS IV.

7 *Westminster*, John Sackvylle, Edward Hargile
12 ———— William Talboys, William Twynes
17 ———— John Smith, John Greene

HENRICUS VIII.

35—14—22—23—31—returns destroyed
33 *Westminster*, William Abree, Richard Jenner
37 ———— Destroyed

EDVARDUS VI.

1 *Westminster*, Thomas Samways,—only one returned

MARIA.

1 *Westminster*, Thomas Samways, John Jurdeyne
1 *Oxford*, John Wadham, John Williams

PHILIPPUS ET MARIA.

1 and 2 *Westminster*, John Buller, Thomas Hobbs
2 and 3 ———— The same returned
4 and 5 ———— Thomas Keynell, John Cattel

ELIZABETHA.

1 *Westminster*, Robert Eyre,—only one returned
5 ———— Robert Eyre, Reginald Grey

The first record of any writs for summoning knights, citizens, and burgesses to Parliament, occurs in the latter end of the reign of Henry III.; and the separation of the Commons from the Lords, is supposed to have begun in the reign of Edward II.

The writs, returns and indentures from 17th Edward IV., to the 1st of Edward VI., except an imperfect copy of 33rd Henry VIII., are all lost or destroyed throughout England.

A List of Burgesses returned to represent the Borough of Melcombe Regis in Parliament.

EDVARDUS I.

33 and 34 *Westminster*, Ballivi nullum responsum dederunt

EDVARDUS II.

1 *Westminster*, Ballivi nullum responsum dederunt
8 ———— Richard Languinou, Adam de Glyde
12 *York*, Boniface Carle, Henry Gibberd
15 *Westminster*, Richard Languinou, William de Marchelle
16 *York*, Adam de Glyde
19 *Westminster*, Richard Languinou, Thomas de Atte See
20 ———— Richard Languinou, James de Clavaxis

EDVARDUS III.

1 *Westminster*, Ralph Languinou, John Stafford
2 *Sarum*, Richard Languinou, Adam de Glyde
4 *Winchester*, Richard Languinou, Thomas de Atte See
6 *Westminster*, James de Clavaxis, Thomas de La Mere
7 *York*, Adam de Glyde, Richard Languinou
8 *Westminster*, John de Stafford, Henry de Glyde
9 ———— John de Stafford, John Hungerford
9 *York*, John de Stafford, John Hungerford
10 *Westminster*, Adam de Glyde, John Hungerford
11 ———— Adam de Glyde, John de Stafford
12 *Northampton*, Richard Languinou, Adam de Glyde
12 *Westminster*, John Stafford, James Hussey
14 ———— John Southeir, James Hussey
14 ———— William Russell, Adam de Glyde
16 ———— James de Clavaxis, John May
17 ———— Thomas de La Mere, William Duffeild
21 ———— William Mercer, Richard Norway
22 ———— John Stafford, William Sport
24 ———— Richard Norway, John Salop
28 ———— William Segston, John Gower
29 ———— Robert Laurens, John Baker
31 ———— William Languinou, Walter Frampton

34 *Westminster*, John Chichester, Robert Laurens
——— William Languinou, John Gower
36 ——— John Gower, Walter de Frampton
42 ——— Walter Frampton, Laurence Junyn
43 ——— Laurence Junyn, Richard Spert
45 *Winchester*, John Chichester,—only one returned
46 *Westminster*, John Gower, John Chichester
47 ——— Walter Clopton, John Gower

RICARDUS II.

3 *Westminster*, John Chichester, Henry Frampton
6 ——— Henry Frampton, John Berde
7 ——— John Northover, Henry Clerk
Sarum, Henry Frampton, John Berde
8 *Westminster*, John Northover, Thomas Russell
9 ——— John Northover, Thomas Walsh
10 ——— Henry Ford, John Northover
11 ——— Henry Ford, Thomas Russell
12 *Cambridge*, Thomas Walsh, Richard Morys
13 *Westminster*, Thomas Russell, John Northover
15 ——— John Bele, John Northover
17 ——— Robert Vell, Robert Calche
18 ——— William Helliere, Robert Calche
20 ——— William Helliere, Henry Ford
21 ——— William Coventry, Robert Helliere

HENRICUS IV.

1 *Westminster*, Thomas Cole, Eustace Kemer
3 ——— John Wyatt, William Fowler
6 *Coventry*, Robert Penne, William Hellyere
8 *Gloucester*, Thomas Cole, Eustace Kemer

HENRICUS V.

1 *Westminster*, Ralph Bowditch, Thomas Londe
1 ——— William Hellyere, William Penne
2 *Leicester*, Ballivi nullum responsum dederunt
5 ——— John Perry, John Gardyner
7 *Gloucester*, William Clethe, Richard Herst
8 *Westminster*, William Walkeden, Robert Abbott

The two following were those authorized to choose burgesses—

John Alesaundre, William Walkeden

HENRICUS VI.

1 *Westminster*, Richard Penny, William Balsham
——— William Corfe, William Balsham
2 ——— William Walkeden, William Corfe
3 ——— William Jerrard, John Bryce
4 *Leicester*, William Corfe, William Davy
6 *Westminster*, Thomas Hussey, Walter Tracy
8 ——— William Balsham, William Bushell
9 ——— Philip Lewestone, William Corfe
11 ——— William Balsham, William Corfe
13 ——— Robert Bruning, William Balsham
15 *Cambridge*, William Abbott, William Balsham
20 *Westminster*, John Wood, William Balsham
25 *Cambridge*, Bartholomew Twynho, Robert Tod
27 *Westminster*, John Gloster, John Baxter
28 ——— John Gloster, Andrew Keywell
29 ——— John Gloster, William Bullyman
31 *Reading*, John Rakes, Thomas Cadrall

These two also appear to have been returned the same time for Weymouth.

33 *Westminster*, John Grenefield, Thomas Hordgill
39 ——— Sampson Brown, John Greene

EDVARDUS IV.

1 *Westminster*, Ballivi nullum responsum dederunt
6 ——— John Lewestone,—only one returned
7 ——— John Ferriley, Robert Burley
12 ——— William Knyvett, John Hody
17 ——— John Smythe, John Greene

EDVARDUS VI.

6 *Westminster*, John Lewestone,—only one returned

MARIA.

1 *Westminster*, John Lewestone, Owen Raynolds
1 *Oxford*, Richard Mitchell, Thomas Samways

PHILIPPUS ET MARIA.

1 and 2 *Westminster*, John Lewestone,
2 and 3 ——— John Lewestone, William Crouche
4 and 5 ——— John Mills, Richard Shaws

ELIZABETHA.

1 *Westminster*, John Mayne, Richard Shaws
5 ———— Thomas Colby, William Mere

EDWARD V., RICHARD III., HENRY VII., HENRY VIII.

Nihil.

The boroughs of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis were after this united by an act of Parliament of 13th Queen Elizabeth, when the two first names, either from the number of votes, their rank, or what is more probable from the priority of the borough, are considered as the parliamentary burgesses of Weymouth, and the two last as those of Melcombe.

ELIZABETHA.

13 *Westminster*, Thomas Hussey, Esq., Richard Tomlinson, Gent., Ralph Browne, Esq., of Frampton, Owen Reynolds
14 ———— Thomas Wolby, Richard Bedell, Esqrs.; in his place deceased, Moyle Fynche, Esq., Thomas Hanham, Esq., recorder, Thomas Hussey, Esq., in his place deceased, Laurence Thomson, Gent.
27 ———— George Greynville, Edward Penruddocke, Esqrs., Laurence Thomson, Francis Bacon, Gents.
28 ———— Edward Bacon, Esq., William Sprynt, Gent., Laurence Thomson, Edward Philips, Gents
31 ———— William Mile, Esq., Robert Gregory, Merchant, Arthur Messenger, William Huddye, Gents.
35 ———— William Mile, William Weston, Esqrs., Thomas Stafford, Thomas Stephens, Esqrs.
39 ———— John Randall, John Woolridge, Gents., Richard Swayne, Francis Pryst, Esqrs., John Mocket, John Brooke, Aldermen. (This appears to have been a double return)
43 ———— John Paynton, Knight, Walter Cope, Esq., Richard Swayne, Esq., Edward Reynolds, Gent.

JACOBUS. I.

1 *Westminster*, Thomas Barfoot, Mayor, John Hanham, vicè the former deceased, William Cecil Lord Cranborne, John Whyte, Alderman, (in his place excusing himself as not being able to attend, Bernard Michel, Gent.,) Robert Middleton, Merchant

12 ———— Giles Green, John Freke, Esqrs., John Freke, Christopher Erle, Esqrs.

21 ———— John Freke, Arthur Pyne, Esqrs., (John Freke died while M. P., but his successor is not named,) Thomas Middleton, Jun., Knight, Thomas Gyer, Alderman, or Henry Walthan, Merchant.

CAROLUS I.

1 *Westminster*, John Strangeways, Knight, Thomas Middleton, Jun., Knight, (in his place chosen for the county of Denbigh,) Giles Green Esq., Bernard Michel, Alderman, Arthur Pyne, Esq.

1 ———— John Strangeways, Knight, Arthur Pyne, Esq., Bernard Michel, Alderman, Giles Green, Esq.

3 ———— Hugh Pyne, Recorder, Thomas Gyer, Alderman, Robert Wapp, Jun., Knight, in his room Lewes Dyves, Esq., Henry Waltham, Alderman

15 ———— John Strangeways, Knight, Thomas Gyer, Alderman, Giles Strangeways, Richard King, Recorder

16 ———— John Strangeways, Knight, Walter Erle, Knight, Matthew Allett, Gent., a recruiter, Gerard Napier, Richard King, Esqrs., in their room William Sydenham, Jun., Esq., John Bond, L. L. D., Recorder,—the Long Parliament, which was dissolved by Oliver Cromwell.

CAROLUS II.

5 *Westminster*, No return

6 and 8 —— Dennis Bond of Lutton, Esq., by prescript of Oliver Cromwell, for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis

11 *Westminster*, John Trenchard, Esq., Col. Waldine Lagoe, Col. John Clarke, Peter Middleton, Merchant.

The Rump Parliament voted four pounds per week to each of their members for fourteen years, ending November, 1659, there were 246 members.

12 *Westminster*, Edward Montague, Esq., (waived for Dover, in his room, Henry Hyde, Esq.,) William Penn, Knight, Henry Waltham, Merchant, Samuel Bond, Recorder, Peter Middleton

13 ——— John Strangeways, Knight, Winston Churchill, Esq., vicé Strangeways, John Coventry, Knight, Bullen Rymes, Esq., William Penn, Knight, John Man, Esq., Anthony Ashley, Esq.

31 ——— Anthony Lord Ashley, John Coventry, Knight, Thomas Browne, Michael Harvey, Esqrs.

31 ——— John Coventry, Knight, John Moreton, Baronet, Thomas Browne, Michael Harvey, Esqrs.

32 *Oxford*, John Coventry, Knight, Michael Harvey, Esq., John Moreton, Baronet, Henry Henning, Esq.

JACOBUS II.

Since whose reign the Parliaments have been invariably held at Westminster, in St. Stephen's Chapel.

1 John Moreton, Baronet, Henry Henning, Esq., George Strangeways, Francis Mohun, of Fleet.

GULIELMUS ET MARIA.

When the Prince of Orange was coming to England, letters missive were sent by the then constituted authorities, to various parts of the country in the name of the Prince of Orange, calling together an assembly as nearly approaching a Parliament as could be; it consisted of members from counties, cities, and boroughs, some oath was necessary, and accordingly, the 1st of William and Mary was past, which turned a Convention into a Parliament.

1 Michael Harvey, Henry Henning, Esqrs., John Moreton, Baronet, Robert Napier, Baronet

2 John Moreton, Michael Harvey, Henry Henning, Nicholas Gould, Esqrs., in his place deceased, Thomas Freke, Esq.

GULIELMUS. III.

7 Hon. Maurice Ashley, Michael Harvey Esqrs., John Freke, of Hartington, John Knight, Esqrs., in his place, expelled the House for malpractises, Philip Taylor, Esq.

10 Philip Taylor, Arthur Shallett, Merchants, Michael Harvey, Thomas Freke, Esqrs.

12 Hon. Henry Thynne, Charles Churchill, Esq., Hon. Maurice Ashley, Michael Harvey, Esq.

13 Hon. Charles Churchill, George St. Looe, Esqrs., Hon. Maurice Ashley, Christopher Wren, Knight.

ANNA.

1 Hon. Henry Thynne, Anthony Henley, Esq., Hon. Charles Churchill, George St. Looe, Esq.

4 Hon. Henry Thynne, Hon. Charles Churchill, Hon. Maurice Ashley, Anthony Henley, Esqrs.

7 Hon. Henry Thynne, Hon. Charles Churchill, in place of the first deceased Edward Clavel, Esq., Hon. Maurice Ashley, Anthony Henley, Esq.

9 Hon. Maurice Ashley, Anthony Henley, Esq., in his place deceased, Reginald Marriott, Esq., James Littleton, William Belt, Esqrs., in their places unduly elected: Thomas Hardy, Knight, William Harvey, Esq.

12 Hon. Daniel Harvey, John Baker, Esq., in their places unduly elected: Thomas Hardy, Knight, William Harvey, Esq., James Littleton, William Belts, Esqrs., in his place unduly elected Reginald Marriott, Esq.

GEORGIUS. I.

1 Daniel Harvey, John Baker, Esqrs., in his room deceased, Edward Harrison, Esq., William Betts, Thomas Littleton, Esqrs.

8 Thomas Pearce, Esq., in his room made Commissioner of Navy, Edward Tucker, Alderman, John Ward of Hackney, Esq., in his room expelled the House for forgery, May 16th, 1726, John Willes, Esq., William Betts, Esq., Sir James Thornhill, Knight.

GEORGIUS II.

1 Edward Tucker, Alderman, Thomas Pearce, Esq., Sir James Thornhill, Knight, George Bubb Doddington, Esq.
8 Edward Tucker, Alderman, Thomas Pierce, Esq., in his room deceased, John Olmius, Esq., Hon. George Bubb Doddington, waived for Bridgewater, in his room George Doddington, Esq., John Tucker, Alderman
16 John Tucker, Joseph Dames, Esqrs., John Raymond, Esq., Admiral James Stewart
20 Welbore Ellis, Esq., Lord of the Admiralty, Richard Plumer, in his room deceased, Lord Cavendish
24 George Doddington, Edmund Hurgate Beaghan, Esqrs.
27 Lord John Cavendish, Welbore Ellis, George Doddington, Esqrs., John Tucker, Alderman.

GEORGIUS III.

2 John Olmius, Richard Glover, Esqrs., Sir Francis Dashwood, Baronet, John Tucker, Alderman
3 Charles Walcot, Esq., vicé Dashwood, a Peer, Richard Jackson, vicé Olmius deceased
9 Billars Lord Waltham, John Tucker, Alderman, Sir Charles Davies, Baronet, Jeremiah Dyson, Esq.
15 Right Hon. Welbore Ellis, Lord of the Treasury, William Chafin Esq., Recorder, John Purling, Esq., John Tucker, Alderman
21 Right Hon. Welbore Ellis, William Chafin Grove, Recorder, John Purling, Warren Lisle, Esq.
21 Gabriel Steward, Alderman, vicé Warren Lisle, Esq., vacated
22 W. R. Rumbold, Esq., vicè William Chafin Grove, vacated
25 Right Hon. Welbore Ellis, Gabriel Steward, John Purling, Aldermen, Sir Thomas Rumbold, Baronet
27 George Jackson, Esq., vicé Gabriel Steward, vacated
29 Gabriel Steward, Alderman, vicè George Jackson vacated
31 Sir James Murray, Baronet, Richard Johnstone Vanden Bempde, Andrew Stewart, Thomas Jones, Esqrs.
32 Sir James Johnstone, Baronet, vicé Jones deceased
35 Gabriel Tucker Steward, Alderman, vicé Johnstone deceased
36 Sir James Murray Pulteney, Baronet, Andrew Stewart, W. Garthshore, Esqrs., Gabriel Steward, Alderman
41 William Garthshore, Esq., Charles Adams, Esq.

42 Sir J. M. Pulteney, Baronet, Gabriel Tucker Steward, Alderman, Charles Adams, William Garthshore, Esqrs.
46 Richard Tucker Steward, Esq.
47 Sir James Pulteney, Baronet, Alderman, Gabriel Tucker Steward, Alderman, Richard Tucker Steward, Alderman, Charles Adams, Esq.
50 Sir John Lowther Johnstone, Baronet
51 Sir John Murray, vicé Pulteney deceased
52 Joseph Hume, Esq., vicé Johnstone deceased, Sir John Murray, Baronet, Right Hon. Thomas Wallace, John Broadhurst, Henry Trail, Esqrs.
53 I. B. W. Cecil, Viscount Cranborne, Masterton Ure, Christopher Idle, Esqrs.
57 Adolphus John Dalrymple, Esq., vicé Lord Cranborne vacated
58 Right Hon. Thomas Wallace, Masterton Ure, William Williams, Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esqrs.

GEORGIUS IV.

1 Right Hon. Thomas Wallace, Masterton Ure, William Williams, Thomas Fowell Buxton, Esqrs.
5 Right Hon. Thomas Wallace, Master of the Mint
7 Right Hon. Thomas Wallace, Masterton Ure, Thomas Fowell Buxton, John Gordon, Esqrs.
9 Edward Burtenshaw Sugden, Esq., vicé Wallace vacated
10 Sir Edward Burtenshaw Sugden, Knight, Solicitor General.

The chief magistrate of a town, but more especially of a seaport was under the Romans called Præpositus, Prefect, Provost, or Ruler,—in the Saxon age, Portreeve or Portgrave, (ꝑonꝑneeve)—under the Normans, Bailiff or Bailly; Spellman thus notices it in his Glossary,—"Ballivus apud Gallos, splendidus Magistratus est." thus evidently stating it to be a person invested with considerable judicial prerogatives; and lastly, Mayor, from Ꝑeeyn, to keep;—there was no Mayor in England, till Richard I. changed the Bailiff of London into a Mayor; the second town in England which had a Mayor, was Lynn, so created by King John; Weymouth was governed by Bailiffs, and Melcombe by a Mayor, till the union of the towns, when by the 13th of Elizabeth, it was to be governed by a Mayor, two Bailiffs, and a Recorder.

A List of the Chief Magistrates of the Borough and Town of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis.

Robert Hawkins,	1516
Robert Samwise,	1517
Richard Pytt,	1527
Bernard Maior,	1571
Thomas Hayward,	1581
John Bond,	1589
John Brook, M. P.,	1592
Richard Jordan,	1596
John Bond,	1598
Matthew Allen,	1601
John Whyte, M. P.,	1602
Thomas Barfoot, M.P.,	1603
Bernard Michell,	1605
John Markett,	1606
Richard Pytt,	1607
John Bond,	1608
John Pitt,	1609
Matthew Pitt,	1610
Henry Michell,	1613
Roger Fry,	1614
John Roy,	1615
William Waltham,	1616
John Pyttery,	1617
Thomas Gyer, M. P.,	1618
Matthew Pitt,	1619
John Bond, Recorder,	1620
Edward Roy,	1621
Henry Waltham, M.P.,	1622
Matthew Allen,	1623
Henry Michell,	1624
Henry Russell,	1625
Edward Linzee,	1626
Thomas Lokier,	1627
David Gur,	1628
Jacob James,	1629
Thomas Gur,	1630
John Thornton,	1631
Henry Cuttance,	1632
Thomas Wallis,	1633
John Lockyer,	1634
John Cade,	1635
Thomas Ledoze,	1636
Henry Mitchell,	1637
Edward Linzee,	1638
George Churchey,	1639
James Gur,	1640
Edward Cuttance,	1641
Matthew Allen,	1642
Thomas Wallis,	1643
Thomas Waltham,	1644
James Gur,	1645
Thomas Ledoze,	1646
William Holmes,	1647
John Browne,	1648
John Arthur,	1649
George Pley,	1650
John Swetman,	1651
Robert Wall,	1652
Robert Gear,	1653
Thomas Waltham,	1654
James Gear,	1655
Henry Waltham,	1656
Roger Cuttance,	1657
George Pley,	1658
Henry Roser,	1659
Alexander Clatworthy,	1660
Thomas Hide,	1661
Richard Yardley,	1662
Theophilus Byatt,	1663
Benjamin Gaich,	1664
George Pley,	1665
Sir Henry Cuttance,	1666
Arnold Sellanova, M.D.	1667
Richard Piercy,	1668
George Pley,	1669
John Woder,	1670
Arnold Sellanova, M.D.	1671
Richard Biles,	1672
Tobias Bury,	1673
Lambert Cornelius,	1674
Thomas Hyde,	1675
Richard Yardley,	1676
Richard Biles,	1677
Benjamin Gaitch,	1678

Thomas Hyde, . . . 1679
Giles Hounsell, . . 1680
Christopher Collier, . 1681
Phineas Evrard, . . 1682
Thomas Ledoze, . . 1683
Richard Yardley, . . 1684
Theobald Townson, . 1685
Thomas Hyde, ... 1686
Philip Taylor, M. P., 1687
Philip Taylor, M. P., 1688
John Russell, . . . 1689
John Pitt, ... 1690
Richard Friend, . . 1691
James New, ... 1692
John Mansell, . . . 1693
Thomas Ledoze, . . 1694
John Friend, . . . 1695
George Lisle, . . . 1696
William Claver, . . 1697
Richard Bury, . . . 1698
William Arding, . . 1699
Philip Taylor, . . . 1700
Charles Langrish, . . 1701
Edward Tucker, M. P., 1702
Thomas Pearse, . . 1703
William Harding, . . 1704
Edward Tucker, . . 1705
John Thrup, . . . 1706
Richard Bury, . . . 1707
George Lisle, . . . 1708
Isaac Harvey, . . . 1709
Edward Tizard, . . 1710
Philip Taylor, . . . 1711
John Friend, . . . 1712
Isaac Harvey, . . . 1713
Ezekiel Russell, . . 1714
John Hardy, . . . 1715
Edward Tucker, . . 1716
Philip Taylor, . . . 1717
Isaac Harvey, . . . 1718
John Hardy, . . . 1719
Richard Piercy, . . 1720
Edward Tucker, . . 1721
Edward Tizard, . . 1722
Isaac Harvey, . . . 1723
John Harvey, . . . 1724

Edward Tucker, . . 1725
John Tucker, . . . 1726
Thomas Rose, . . . 1727
Richard Tucker, . . 1728
James Harvey, . . . 1729
Edward Tizard, . . 1730
Edward Tizard, Jun., 1731
John Tucker, . . . 1732
Richard Tucker, . . 1733
John Carsewell, . . 1734
Edward Tucker, M. P., 1735
Richard Tucker, . . 1736
John Friend, . . . 1737
John Tucker, M. P., . 1738
Richard Jordan, . . 1739
Richard Tucker, . . 1740
Richard Jeane, . . . 1741
Charles Taver, . . . 1742
John Marder, . . . 1743
John Russell, . . . 1744
Joseph Swaffield, . . 1745
John Barham, . . . 1746
Richard Tucker, . . 1747
John Friend, . . . 1748
Charles Taver, . . . 1749
Richard Jeanes, . . 1750
John Russell, . . . 1751
Joseph Swaffield, . . 1752
Ricard Tucker, . . . 1753
John Tucker, M. P., . 1754
John Barham, . . . 1755
Charles Taver, . . . 1756
John Taver, ... 1757
William Newman, . . 1758
but dying before sworn in, John Taver filled the office till March, when was chosen
John Gollop, . . . 1758
William Weston, . . 1759
Richard Tucker, . . 1760
George Newman, . . 1761
Edward Tucker, M.P., 1762
John Tucker, M. P., . 1763
Joseph Swaffield, . . 1764
Charles Taver, . . . 1766
John Barham, . . . 1765

John Taver,	1767	John Arbuthnot,	1798
William Weston,	1768	Samuel Weston,	1799
Gabriel Steward,	1769	G. T. Steward, M. P.,	1800
Francis Steward,	1770	Thomas Morris,	1801
Thomas Bishop,	1771	E. T. Steward,	1802
John Tucker, M. P.,	1772	Samuel Weston,	1803
Taylor Penney,	1773	Henry Hayes Tizard,	1804
Richard Tucker,	1774	Sir J. M. Pulteney, M.P.	1805
John Taver,	1775	William Weston,	1806
William Weston, Sen.	1776	R. T. Steward, M. P.,	1807
William Weston, Jun.	1777	William Schollar,	1808
John Purling, M. P.,	1778	James Bower,	1809
Gabriel Steward,	1779	Samuel Weston,	1810
John Herbert Browne,	1780	G. T. Steward, M. P.,	1811
Jonathan Fowler,	1781	William Weston,	1812
Francis Steward,	1812	Henry Hayes Tizard,	1813
Thomas Bishop,	1783	James Sanders,	1814
John Crouch, Jun.,	1784	James Bower,	1815
Taylor Penny,	1785	William Bayley,	1816
William Weston,	1786	Roper Weston,	1817
John Purling,	1787	James Bower,	1818
John Arbuthnot,	1788	William Oakley,	1819
Samuel Weston,	1789	James W. Weston,	1820
G. T. Steward, M. P.,	1790	Richard Bower,	1821
John H. Browne, vice		William Oakley,	1822
G. T. Steward, deceased	1791	Joseph Horsford,	1823
Jonathan Fowler,	1792	John Martin,	1824
Francis Steward,	1793	John Martin,	1825
Richard Steward,	1794	James W. Weston,	1826
John Crouch,	1795	William Oakley,	1827
Sir W. Pulteney, Bart.,	1796	William Devenish,	1828
William Weston,	1797	Richard Bower,	1829

RECORDERS.

From the Union of the Boroughs, with date of their Election.

June 3rd, 1572,	Thomas Hanham, M. P.
July 1st, 1615,	Hugh Pyne, M. P.
February 4th, 1628,	Richard King, M. P.
October 18th, 1645,	John Bond, L. L. D., M. P.
April 23rd, 1649,	Samuel Bond, M. P.

July 31*st*, 1683,	Nathaniel Bond, L. L. B.
September 1*st*, 1707,	Dennis Bond, Serjeant at Law
March 4*th*, 1746,	John Clapcot
October 1*st*, 1756,	Richard Bingham
October 4*th*, 1759,	Richard Broderip
September 26*th*, 1774,	William Chafin Groves, L. L. D., M. P.
November 3*rd*, 1786,	Giles Templeman
August 25*th*, 1823,	George Bankes, M. P., Cursitor Baron of Exchequer.

A List of the present MEMBERS of the Corporation, with the date of their Election.

MAYOR.

Richard Bower.

RECORDER.

George Bankes.

BAILIFFS.

James Willis Weston | William Oakley.

ALDERMEN.

William Weston	William Bayley
Gabriel T. Steward	Roper Weston
Richard T. Steward	Joseph Horsford
Edward T. Steward	John Martin
James Bower	William Devenish
James Sanders	

BURGESSES.

September 24*th*, 1802,	Thomas Martin
———	Abraham Flew
———	William Ayles
———	James Richards
———	James Gear
———	Isaac Davis.
July, 1813,	William Brett
———	Robert Richards
April 16*th*, 1823,	George Welsford
———	Samuel Wallis
———	William Heath

April 16th, 1823, William Eliot
——————— Robert Woodman
——————— Right Hon. Thomas Wallace.

January 17th, 1828, George Andrews
——————— Thomas Horsford
——————— Thomas Henry Martin
——————— George Arden
——————— Henry Hayes Tizard, Jun.

TOWN CLERK.

Henry Hayes Tizard.

A List of some of the SEA BIRDS in the vicinage of Weymouth.

CLOVEN-FOOTED.

Hœmatopus Ostralegus,	Oyster Catcher
Charadius Pluvialis,	Golden Plover
——— *Hiaticula*,	Ringed Plover
——— *Calidris*,	Sanderling
Tringa Squatarola,	Grey Plover

FIN-FOOTED.

Podiceps Cristatus,	Tippet Grebe

WEB-FOOTED.

Alca Arctica,	Puffin Awk
—— *Torda*,	Razor Bill
Tringa Cinerea,	Knott
——— *Cinclus*,	Purre
Numenius Arquata,	Common Curlew
——— *Phœopus*,	Whimbrel
Phalaropus Lobatus,	Grey Phalarope
Uria Troile,	Foolish Guillemot
Larus,	Gull
Anas Cygnus Ferus,	Wild Swan
——— *Mansuetus*,	Mute Swan
—— *Anser*,	Grey Leg Goose
—— *Borches*,	Wild Duck

Anas Tadorna,	Sheldrake
—— *Marila,*	Scaup Duck
—— *Clypeata,*	Blue Winged Shoveller
—— *Penelops,*	Widgeon
—— *Clangula,*	Golden Eyed Duck
—— *Felligula,*	Tufted Duck
—— *Crecca,*	Teal
—— *Fusca,*	Velvet Duck
Pelecanus Carbo,	Cormorant
——— *Gracilus,*	Shag
Colymbus Stellatus,	Speckled Diver
Sterna Hirundo,	Common Tern

A List of some of the LAND BIRDS, that have been found on this Coast.

RAPACIOUS.

Falco Haliœtus,	Osprey
—— *Milvus,*	Kite
—— *Cyaneus,*	Blue Hawk
—— *Nisus,*	Sparrow Hawk
—— *Pygargus,*	Ringtail
—— *Tinnunculus,*	Kestrel
—— *Œsalon,*	Merlin
Strix. Flammea,	Screech Owl
Lanius Collurio,	Red Backed Shrike

PIES.

Corvus Corax,	Raven
——— *Frugilegus,*	Rook
——— *Monedula,*	Jack Daw
——— *Pica,*	Magpie
——— *Glandanus,*	Jay
Sturnus Vulgaris,	Starling
Turdus Merula,	Blackbird
——— *Pilatis,*	Fieldfare
——— *Musicus,*	Thrush
Cuculus Canorus,	Cuckoo
Jynx Torquilla,	Wryneck
Picus Viridis,	Woodpecker
Upupa Epops,	Hoopoe

PASSERINE.

Ampelis Garrulus,	Waxen Chatterer
Loxia Curvirostra,	Crossbill
——— *Pyrrhula,*	Bullfinch
Emberiza Citrinella,	Yellow Hammer
——— *Montifringilla,*	Mountain Finch
Fringilla Domestica,	House Sparrow
——— *Cœlebs,*	Chaffinch
——— *Carduelis*	Goldfinch
——— *Canaria,*	Canaryfinch
——— *Linaria,*	Linnet
——— *Vanellus,*	Lapwing
Alauda Arvensis,	Sky Lark
——— *Campestris,*	Field Lark
Motacilla Alba,	Water Wagtail
Muscicapa Grisola,	Spotted Flycatcher
Motacilla Luscinia,	Nightingale
——— *Rubecula,*	Redbreast
——— *Salicaria,*	Reed Warbler
——— *Regulus,*	Golden Crested Wren
——— **Œnanthe,*	Wheatear
Parus Cœruleus,	Titmouse
Hirundo Rustica,	House Swallow
——— *Urbica,*	Martin
——— *Apus,*	Swift

GALLINACEOUS.

Phasianus Colchicus,	Pheasant
Tetrao Perdix,	Partridge
——— *Coturnix,*	Quail
Rallus Crex,	Land Rail
Otis Œdicnemus,	Bustard.

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* This delicious little bird is here caught in great abundance at certain periods of the year, but more especially during the harvest months; when thousands are sent to London and the interior; they are generally sold divested of their feathers, strung on twigs with intervening leaves of vine; are either roasted or potted, but whichever way they are cooked, they make a most delicious repast, and are equal to the Ortolan.

A List of SHELLS of the Univalves, Bivalves, and Multivalves, found on the Shore in the vicinage of Weymouth.

Anomia Ephippium
Arca Pilosa
—— Nucleus
Balanus Communis
—— Punctatus
—— Vulgaris
—— Rugosus
—— Clavatus
—— Tintinnabulum
—— Conoides
—— Intertextus
Buccinum Ambiguum
—— Hepaticum
—— Bilineatum
—— Perdix
—— Lineatum
—— Cinctum
Bulla Lignaria
—— Ampulla
—— Patula
—— Aperta
—— Haliotoidea
—— Hydatis
—— Cylindracea
—— Truncata
Chiton Marginatus
—— Cinereus
—— Albus
—— Fascicularis
Donax Denticulata
—— Plebeia
—— Irus
Dentalium Gadus
Haliotis Tuberculata
Helix Dentrita
—— Cornea
—— Obscura
—— Decussata
—— Lapicida
—— Umbilicata
Lepas Anatifera
—— Sulcata
Lepas Elongata
Mactra Structorum
—— Dealbata
—— Boysii
—— Hians
—— Tenuis
Mya Pholadea
—— Arenaria
—— Pubescens
—— Prætenuis
Mytilus Edulis
—— Barbatus
—— Modiolus
—— Discors
Murex Despectus
—— Antiquus
—— Corneus
—— Rufus
—— Sinuosus
—— Costatus
—— Nebula
—— Gracilis
—— Septangularis
—— Fuscatus
—— Adversus
Nautilus Crispus
Ostrea Edulis
—— Maxima
Patella Pellucida
—— Parva
—— Antiquata
—— Ungarica
—— Militaris
—— Fissura
—— Graca
Pinna Pectinata
—— Muricata
Pecten Maximus
—— Jacobœus
—— Opercularis
—— Linneatus
—— Distortus

Pholas Dactylus
——— Candidus
——— Striatus
Sabella Arenaria
Solen Siliqua
—— Vagina
—— Pellucidus
—— Fragilis
—— Antiquatus
—— Vespertinus
Tellina Fervensis
——— Squalida
——— Lœta
——— Donacina
——— Striata
——— Fabula
——— Solidula
——— Fausta
——— Crassa
——— Proficua
——— Bimaculata
——— Carnaria
Turbo Clathratulus
Turbo Truncatus
—— Littoreus
—— Parus
—— Costatus
—— Bryereus
—— Coniferus
—— Tunex
—— Subumbilicatus
—— Elegans
—— Denticulatus
Trocus Tenuis
—— Exiquus
—— Tumidus
Voluta Tornatilis
Venus Paphia
—— Verrucosa
—— Striatula
—— Islandica
—— Chione
—— Exolita
—— Tigerina
—— Aura.

Many of these shells it must be acknowledged are *not usually found* on this coast, but are only thrown ashore after a ground swell, and either dredged up by the fishing Trawlers, or brought adhering to the sides of vessels, and others are again still more rare; the Museum Portlandicum was enriched by several beautiful specimen of shells from this coast.

A Catalogue of some of the ***PLANTS****, that are found in the vicinage of Weymouth, arranged according to the Linnean System.*

Monandria.—Monogynia.

Hippuris Vulgaris,	Common Mares Tail

Diandria.—Monogynia.

Veronica Officinalis,	Common Speedwell
Orchis Apifera,	Bee Orchis
—— *Conopsea,*	Redhanded Orchis
Salva Officinalis,	Sage

Rosmarinus Officinalis,	Rosemary
Serapias Palustris,	Marsh Helleborine
Circœa Lutetiana,	Enchanter's Nightshade

Triandria.—Monogynia.

Valeriana Officinalis,	Wild Valerian

Tetrandria.—Monogynia.

Plantago Maritima,	Sea Plantain
——— *Coronopus,*	Buckthorn Plantian
Rubia Tinctorum,	Wild Madder
Galium Cruciatum,	Cross Wort

Pentandria.—Monogynia

Lythospermum Officinale,	Gromwell
Crithmum Maritimum,	Sea Samphire
Menyanthes Trifoliata,	Buck Bean
Hottonia Palustris,	Featherfoil
Glaux Maritima,	Black Salt Wort
Hyosciamus Niger,	Hellebore
Atropa Belladonna,	Deadly Nightshade
Solanum Dulcamara,	Bittersweet
Rhamnus Catharticus,	Buck Thorn

Pentandria.—Digynia.

Eryngium Maritimun,	Sea Eryngo
Salsola Fructicosa,	Shrubby Salt Wort
Daucus Carota,	Wild Carrott
Conium Maculatum,	Hemlock

Pentandria.—Trigynia.

Sambucus Ebulus,	Dwarf Elder
——— *Nigra,*	Common Elder

Hexandria.—Trigynia.

Colchicun Autumnale,	Meadow Saffron
Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus,	Daffodill
Narthesium Ossifragum,	Asphodel

Heptandria.—Monogynia.

Æsculus Hippocastanus,	Horse Chesnut

Octandria.—Monogynia.

Daphne Mezereum,	Mezereon
Erica Tetralix,	Heath
Mora Perfoliata,	Yellow Cestaury
Vaccinium Vitis Idæa,	Whortleberry

Enneandria.—Hexegynia.

Britomus Umbellatus,	Flowering Rush

Dicandria.—Degynia.

Stellaria Uliginosa,	Fountain Chickweed
Saponaria Officinalis,	Soap Wort
Silina Maritima,	Sea Catchfly
Chrysosplenium Oppositifolium,	Saxifrage

Decandria.—Pentigynia.

Oxalis Acetosella,	Wood Sorrell

Dodecandria.—Digynia.

Agrimonia Eupatoria,	Agrimony

Dodecandria.—Trigynia.

Euphorbia Exigua,	Dwarf Spurge
——— *Paralias,*	Sea Spurge
Reseda Lutea,	Rocket

Icosandria.—Polygynia

Rosa Canina,	Dog Rose
—— *Spinosissima,*	Burnet Rose

Polyandria.—Monogynia.

Papaver Rhœas,	Red Poppy
——— *Cambricum,*	Yellow Poppy

Polyandria.—Polygynia.

Clematis Vitalba,	Virgin's Bower

Didynamia.—Gymnospermia.

Teucrium Scorodonia,	Wood Sage

Galeopsis Ladanum,	Red Hemp Nettle
Nepeta Cataria,	Cat Mint
Mentha Viridis,	Spear Mint
——— *Piperita,*	Pepper Mint
Lavandula Spica,	Lavender Spike
Marrubium Vulgare,	Common Horehound
Melissa Officinalis,	Balm
Melampyrum Arvense,	Purple Cow Wheat

Didynamia.—Angiospermia.

Digitalis Purpurea,	Fox Glove

Tetradynamia.—Siliculosæ.

Sinapis Alba,	Wild Mustard
Bunias Cakile,	Sea Rocket
Crambe Maritima,	Sea Kake
Sisymbrium Nasturtium,	Water Cresses
Cochlearia Armorica,	Horse Radish

Monadelphia.—Polyandria.

Malva Sylvestris,	Common Mallow
—— *Moschata,*	Mask Mallow
Erodium Maritimum	Sea Stork's Bill

Diadelphia.—Decandria.

Spartium Scoparium,	Common Broom
Hedysarum Onobrychis,	Sainfoin
Anthyllis Vulneraria,	Kidney Vetch
Lathyrus Nissolia,	Crimson Grass Vetch

Polyadelphia.—Polyandria.

Hypericum Pulchrum,	Small Upright Wort
——— *Elodes,*	Marsh St. John's Wort
——— *Androsæmum,*	Tutsan

Syngenesia.—Polygamia Æqualis.

Leontodon Taraxicum,	Dandelion
Carduus Tenuiflorus,	Slender Flower Thistle
——— *Acaulis,*	Dwarf Ditto
Onopordon Acanthium,	Cotton Ditto
Anserinum Commune,	Clivers
Hieracium Umbellatum,	Bushy Hawkweed

Syngenesia.—Polygamia Superflua.

Artemisia Abrotanun,	Southernwood
——— *Maritima,*	Seawormwood
Tanacetum Vulgare,	Tansy
Tussilago Farfara,	Coltsfoot
Anthemis Nobilis,	Chamomile

Gynandria.—Polyandria.

Arum Maculatum,	Wake Robin

Monoecia.—Tetrandria.

Urtica Dioica,	Nettle

Dioecia.—Monadelphia.

Juniperus Communis,	Juniper

Polygamia.—Monoecia.

Parietaria Officinalis,	Pellitory of the Wall

Cryptogamia.—Felices.

Polypodium Felix Mas,	Male Fern
Equisetum Sylvaticum,	Wood Horse Tail.

The Bay of Weymouth is replete with myriads of fish, which are here caught and sent to the Inland markets, the shoals of Mackerel and Herrings are sometimes in such abundance that the land is even cultivated by them ; indeed this coast has always been noted from the earliest days of Athelstan for the produce of its shores;—the chief fish that are found here, are the following :—

Raja Batis,	Skate
—— *Clavata,*	Thornback
—— *Pastinaca,*	String Rag
Scomber Scomber,	Mackerel
——— *Thynnus,*	Tunny
Mullus Ruber,	Red Mullet
Trigla Guynardus,	Gurnard
——— *Lyra,*	Piper
Mugil Cephalus,	Grey Mullet

Gadus Morhua,	Common Cod
——— *Œglifinus,*	Haddock
——— *Barbatus,*	Whiting
——— *Merluccius,*	Hake
——— *Molva,*	Ling
Pleuronectes Platessa,	Plaice
——— *Limanda,*	Dab
——— *Flesus,*	Flounder
——— *Solea,*	Sole
——— *Tuberculatus,*	Turbot
Atherina Hepsetus,	Common Smelt
Clupea Harengus,	Herring
——— *Sprattus,*	Sprat
Cancer Gammarus,	Lobster
——— *Communis,*	Shrimp
——— *Mœnas,*	Crab
Muræna Conga,	Conger Eel
Sepia Octopoda,	Scuttlefish
Disdon,	Sunfish
Syngnathus Hippocamnus,	Sea Horse.

In 1753 a Physeter Macrocephalus or Cachelot Whale was driven ashore at Weymouth, it was 55 feet long with an enormous head, and rather a small tail in proportion for its size; its exterior maxillary bone was 14 feet long and three broad; the foramen magnum in the calvarium was six inches in diameter; the vertebræ were very large, one measured eleven inches long and twelve inches broad; the tail was twelve feet wide; it produced twelve hogsheads of blubber and five and a half of spermaceti, independent of loss occasioned by ignorance of the proper process; the dorsal fin was four feet nine inches; the pectoral, four feet eleven inches.—There are also occasionally visible in the bay, playfully sporting their gambols on the surface of the water, the Delphinus Phocœna or Porpoise, the Delphinus Orca or Grampus, these are but rare visitors, and accompany the gregarious herds of the Scomber Scomber and Clupea Harengus.

It appears that the Bay of Weymouth produced the Pilcher, which is now rarely caught beyond the coast of Cornwall, for the Holy Fraternity of Benedictine Monks at Abbotsbury, who like all other Monks had no decided objection to good living, were the lords of the manor at Abbotsbury, and as a fine fresh salmon or turbot was peculiarly acceptable to the palates of these self-denying and austere brotherhood, the

fishermen on the estate were obliged to furnish the monastery with the *first caught fish*, every morning, for which they were to receive, first, a benediction for their souls' health, and then an adequate sum for their fish, which sum was to be regulated by their spiritual pastors and masters, but alas, though the fraternity were very bountiful with their pater nosters and ave marias, their hand of liberality was shortened and the poor fishermen came away from the threshold of the Abbey with a heavy heart and light purse, inwardly chewing the cud of discontent, though compelled to show passive obedience to their lordly conscience keepers; their wits being sharpened by this constant illiberality, a shrewd and penetrating owner of a boat, discovered, that a word had been inserted in their written tenures, on which a notable quibble might be raised, and accordingly, one morning, the body of fishermen presented themselves before the door of the Monastery, and gave the porter, whose jolly countenance ill expected such a gift, and whose hand trembled when he received *three small pilchers;* to render it less digestable, this happened on a Friday, when, by the catholic religion, nothing but fish could orthodoxally traverse their saintly throats; the whole body of monks instantly rose, and had not their fishing tenants wisely given *leg-bail, an excommunicatory anathema* would have been sans ceremonie hurled on their devoted heads, they categorically demanded the motive of this unparalleled insult on their ghostly lords; the fishermen shrewdly and subtlely observed that the quantity was without any doubt small for the satisfying of the appetites of the holy brotherhood, but that by the strict letter of their feudal tenures they were only bound to deliver *the first caught*, and they had only as true and honest tenants performed this by tendering to the brotherhood the three pilchers. The monks soon saw their error, but as a dinner they must have, and nothing but fish being allowed, they compounded with the fishermen for that day's fish by offering to pay 3*d.* per pound, and the fishermen covenanted to provide fish for the monks at the same price every morning; thus the monks who expected to have feasted jovially at the expense of the fishermen, were compelled to give in their adhesion to their inferiors in wealth, though more crafty in design; the monastery at Abbotsbury has nearly become extinct, its remains are even now extensive, the refectory where these monks, once caroused and under the cloak of piety, and in the odour of sanctity, "no religion kepeth, nor by day, nether by nygte, but hath an abomynable rule wyth kepyng of wymen, not with i, or ii, or iii, but with manie more than I do write of;" no longer can be found. The chauntry chapel of St. Catherine,

still toweringly stands a prominent feature of the distant sail, and where these poor fishermen most probably offered up their prayers ere they pulled the oar or let down the net; the convent of St. Swithin also demanded from their tenants at Weymouth, a similar tenure; Athelstan gives WæyeOuð to the monks of Milton, "ad victum" and we also find that the Abbey of Cerne, had salt pans in Melcombe which they used in curing the fish for these Fridays; the earls of Clare had also certain oblata of fish of various kinds from here; it is from the former lords of these manors, that the mayor of Weymouth demands the second caught fish; a bushel of corn, and of all dry goods; and one, two or three bushels of coals, according to the number of masts, from every vessel that enters the port. These were all secured to the corporate body by the last charter.

Geological Memoranda of Weymouth Bay.

Although Weymouth Bay exhibits an inexhaustible source of subjects, fitting the investigation of the Geologist, it does not appear to have met with that attention, which such a mass of materials might be expected to have excited; more particularly so, when locality of situation and facility of access are brought into consideration, nor will the limited nature of the present publication admit of a lengthened scientific detail, a general outline is sketched, merely pointing out the most prominent external characterestics.

The boundary of the Bay westward is composed of a ridge of pebbles, corresponding in its formation, with the Chesil Bank; this ridge extends about two miles tending Northward, at its termination a range of cliff commences, progressively attaining here an altitude of near two hundred feet; at the first approach the formation consists of loose yellow clayey earth, with detached fragments of coarse lime stone, resting on a bed of blue clay, gradually verging as you proceed eastward, into regular horizontal layers of stone, exhibiting a more decisive character, being analogous to the upper stratum of Portland Rock, and distinguished by the name of Roach or Cap Stone; this continues about half a mile, when the stratum of stone disappears, being hid by a projecting head-land of clay intermixed with crags of the Lime Stone, this point is called *Ratcliff;* on the east side of which the strata again appear and present a dip of at least 60 degrees westward, terminating abruptly; the cliff here is high and commanding, and a fracture

most decidedly occurs; the intervening portion of coast between *Ratcliff* and the Point next exhibiting the strata of rock, is called *Short Lake*, a name unquestionably referring to the peculiar relative position of this part of the coast, as connected with the two nearest points of rocky strata; the soil has doubtless sunk down, either, by some violent convulsion which has torn asunder the adjacent parts, or, by a lapse of subtratum, at some bye gone period;—that the sea has gained, and is still gaining on the coast is indisputable; within a century the coast at *Osmington Mills*, is known to have extended at least an hundred yards farther Southward than the present extreme point of cliff, calculating on a proportionate waste along the coast, it reconciles an apparent improbability, namely, that at some remote period, the portion of coast above mentioned, might have been by a subsidence of the soil, covered with water, and have actually exhibited a lake, which the gradual increaching of the sea, has since absorbed; part of this space is even now swampy and almost carries conviction as to the fact.—The soil now predominant is a mixture of yellow and blue loose clayey earth, constantly shivering down and exposing an abundance of the Fossils, *Ostrea* and *Gryphæa*.

The cliff next following is lofty and bold, displaying strata of lime stone of a whiter cast, the dip forming an angle of at least 45 degrees Eastward, being in an opposite direction to the terminating point at *Ratcliff*, and commences as abruptly as that terminates. The distance intervening is more than a quarter of a mile, it must be observed that a thin stratum of gravel covers the summit of some part of the cliff here. The strata of rock continues visibly declining Eastward to a curve, called *Black Heath*, from the prevalence of dark argillaceous earth; for some distance Eastward the cliff is composed of clay, and loose yellow earth mixed with argillaceous strata and dark slaty stone, the former predominating. This species of formation and the rocky strata just mentioned, alternate, with little variation as far as *Goggin's Barrow*, near *Osmington Mills;* on the summit of *Goggin's Barrow*, which is about two hundred feet high, green sand stone appears, in fact, the entire Barrow is evidently formed of sand and sand stone, which the sliding down of a great portion of it on the South side, caused by a laspe of the substratum of blue clay beneath, renders visible; it should be remarked here once for all, that the base of the entire line of this coast is composed of a bed of blue clay.

The base of *Goggin's Barrow* displays the effects of a more extensive and violent commotion, the irregular and contrasted strata of rocks appear at some places to have been thrust up and broken asunder by some extraordinary convulsion of

nature, and hurled together by a force which nothing less than volcanic power could produce; huge crags, in perpendicular and horizontal layers, intermixed in the wildest disorder with strata in every other possible position, embedded in the clay, afford the most decisive proof of the operative cause of their present confusion: at *Osmington Mills* this is particularly conspicuous, and at low water the scene is highly interesting; at this spot there are found blocks of stone of rather an extraordinary description, their quality coarse hard grit, partaking occasionally of a dead yellow and blue colour; their shape circular, from two to eight feet in diameter, flat on one side, the other presenting an obtuse cone; they are embedded in the sandy cliff, which here predominates for a short distance only; they are seen in a regular stratum, their convex side invariably downward, but not immediately approximating each other: as adventitious circumstances occasionally produce a lapse of portions of the cliff, these stones become exposed, and are here in great profusion, and present a very grotesque appearance when viewed from the higher parts of the cliff,—there are some of them at *Ratcliff Point*, which is two miles West of this, but at no other place do they appear along this line of coast.

With a little intervening change of soil, which is composed of blue clay and yellow earth partaking largely of the same quality, mixed with a small portion of gravel, we find a recurrence of regular strata of the coarser calcareous stone, at *Bran Point;* the cliff here is very high and bold, the strata much coarser than at *Ratcliff*, and with a covering or cap of gravel at least six feet thick, the dip here tending Eastward. An intersection of low land or vale follows for near two miles, the soil fine loam, with gravel and small patches of clay occasionally making their appearance; this brings us to *Holworth Cliff;* here a new and extraordinary feature opens on us, *Holworth Cliff* is composed of a mixture of dark argillaceous earth, dark slaty stone, locally termed stone coal, (from the circumstance of its being used as an article of fuel,) alum stone, and blocks of lime stone, exhibiting calcareous spar or bitumen, containing portions of iron, varying in quantity, some being coated with iron pyrites, others having lumps of it adhering to them, add to these an association of sulphur with the clayey stratum; the iron pyrites are abundant, and by decomposition and action on the argillaceous strata, have produced an efflorescence of the aluminous sulphate, to which cause, it is presumed, is to be attributed the spontaneous appearance of fire in this cliff in the month of March, 1827, and from which spot there has been no cessation

of emission of vapour, from that time to the present period, (November,) 1829. The vapour is highly charged with sulphureous effluvium, its effects are most powerful at the recurrence of the spring tides; hence it is inferred, that a communication takes place at these periods, between the sea and the ignited materials embedded in the interior of the cliff. There are found here, and also adventitiously to the Westward of *Osmington*, masses of blue lias, which have acquired, some an oval and others a circular form, of various dimensions from one to three feet in diameter, and about eight inches thick, they all envelope some animal or vegetable substance, which is become petrified, and exhibit, when divided, beautiful specimens of spar, &c. some appear to have had a cornu ammonis, some a nautilus; which is very much compressed, but still preserving the pearly shell, some a portion of wood or other material, as a nucleus to form upon,—fine specimens of this sort of stone have also been met with near Weymouth, and also on *Fleet Manor*.

Here again, an intersecting portion of rocky cliff appears, (from which, the mass above mentioned, combining so great a variety of materials, was detached by *subsidence*, a few years since,) but of limited extent, and portrays strongly marked strata of lime stone, &c. The cliff is about two hundred feet high. The abrupt appearance of rocky strata, decisively denotes a fracture, and as far as the subsidence permits an exposure of it, the strata are seen in regular layers of lime stone with intermediate corresponding beds of flint, presenting a dip, in an angle of at least fifty degrees Northward: near the summit, the stratum at one spot, suddenly forms a transverse angle, dipping nearly perpendicular, at another it forms a curve and assumes a basin-like appearance;—between this and *White-nose*, the lime stone stratum occasionally intervenes and displays layers of rock, whose angles of inclination vary materially, the last range of which trending Eastward merges into the chalk stratum. A cap or covering of gravel from two to twenty feet in thickness, crowns the summit at the commencement of the chalk stratum, which, here presents many irregular and grotesque chasms, whose intertices are filled up with the former material.

Having proceeded thus far, we now arrive at a point presenting a character, totally different from any thing preceding, and one of the most extraordinary occurrences in the Geology of Great Britain.—We have reached the towering, chalky cliff called *White-nose*, which is principally remarkable for being the termination (coastways) of that range of *chalk* formation, which runs from the coast of Yorkshire, across the Kingdom,

to this point, in a line from North-east to South-west; it is also further deserving notice, that a zone of formations, comprising oolitic limestone, calcareous sands, sandstone, and argillaceous calcareous beds, runs in a paralell line and extends to the Isle of Portland immediately opposite, on the south side of the bay.

The chalk cliffs do not extend Eastward more than about four miles, *Worth-barrow* being the extreme point in that direction,—the line of this formation inclining Northward as above stated. This portion of the coast is most interesting to the Geologist,—there are within the two points just mentioned, (*White-nose* and *Worth-barrow*) several small bays or coves, of an oval or circular form, "protected in front by projecting reefs of Portland rock, and excavated backward into the interior, as far as the chalk, forming regular oval basins, and having not more than a third of their circumference open toward the sea, the precipitous sides of these basins afford the finest sections of all the formations intervening between the Portland beds and the chalk, the outer capes of these bays which exhibit the Portland beds, are lofty, being transverse sections of a ridge of hills of that formation, traversing the peninsula longitudinally from East to West: the inner cliffs which exhibit the arenaceous formations are low, being cut into a valley, which, throughout this tract, separates the above ridge from that of chalk; cliffs and towering eminences of the latter, form the back of each cove or bay."

Some of these coves are more circular than others, the entrance from the sea being somewhat contracted; this form arises from the greater hardness of the inferior beds of formation, being Portland limestone, which presenting a stronger resistance to the action of the sea, project in bold capes, while the inner strata have been more extensively worn away; the back of some of these bays is cut into the chalk strata, and fine cliffs are thus exposed; this is the case particularly at *Lulworth* and *Durdle Coves*, in these the chalk strata are nearly vertical, and the lower beds are inclined in an angle of between 50 and 60 degrees, as is the case generally on the coast Eastward.

White-nose Point claims the more attention as presenting the termination of the vertical chalk strata, and because it is the last chalk cliff on this part of the coast, the hills of this formation tending as before remarked in land; "the termination of vertical beds appears to take place in consequence of the course of the chalk, and the line of coast trending to the North of the axis of the disturbing force. The vertical chalk is here hard, whereas the horizontal is soft, which seems to indicate

some connexion between the inclination and consolidation of the strata.

One of the coves before mentioned has attracted peculiar notice, from the circumstance of having a peforated and arched rock, forming its Eastern cape, and it has acquired the name of *Durdle Door* from that cause; at particular periods, a boat can pass through this porfation with its sails set:—but the most interetsing of the coves is that of *Lulworth*, on account of its more perfectly circular form; on each side of it, beds of wood coal, contained in the iron sand, which here makes its appearance, are strikingly exhibited. Mr. Webster has well observed "that these coves are equally remarkable for their singular form and picturesque character, as from their comprising in so short a space, the epitome of so considerable a portion of the English strata." The Rev. W. D. Conybeare remarks on iron sand, that, "it often contains a considerable quantity of fossil wood, and even regular beds of wood coal: the sands alternating with these beds, also much resemble in some places, those occurring in the great coal formations; this is particularly the case at *Lulworth Cove*, where the strata of this series, completely assume the character of an imperfect coal formation." The inclined position of the strata occupying this portion of the coast, and the deeply excavated coves, which form so remarkable a feature, having been casually alluded to, we remark further, that the Portland beds dip in land in an angle of from forty-five to sixty degrees, forming the exterior barriers and capes at the mouth of these Bays; while the vertical strata of the lofty chalk downs range along their bottom, the more solid masses of Portland rock, having resisted most effectively the action of the destroying causes, which appear to have excavated these coves, often form a reef of rocks in front of them.

"While the convulsions, which have here acted on the strata, have raised the solid beds of Portland Rock in mass, in regular inclined planes, the soft superincumbent argillaceous beds have been bent by the lateral pressure (to which they have more readily yielded,) into many singular contortions; it may indeed be stated as a general fact, that when in a series of inclined strata, solid, thick, and compact beds of stone are found associated with their argillaceous and yielding beds, the former however elevated, usually present regular planes of stratification, while the latter are bent and twisted into the most irregular curves. It is scarcely possible to conceive a stronger proof, that this disposition, is not the result of original formation, but of subsequent mechanical violence." The same remarks apply to the coast as far as *Worthbarrow*, hav-

ing reached which point, we stretch Southward athwart to *Portland*, which forms the boundary of the Bay in that direction.

Portland is an immense mass of calcareous lime stone, resting on a bed of black, blue, shiver, it abounds with an amazing variety of Fossil remains, vegetable as well as animal, presenting an extensive field for investigation to the scientific inquirer, and with its adjoining phenomenon the *Chesil Bank*, would require a volume to particularize their local properties.

The entire bed of Weymouth Bay is composed of blue seas, intersected with alternate reefs of *Portland Rock* and banks of pebbles, between which the blue clay occasionally shows itself;—strata of rocks are running in every possible direction, but the more general, extend lineally from East to West, exhibiting dippings of various degrees, sometimes to the South, often Northward, and ranging from horizontal to prependicular each way.

Subjoined is a List of Fossil Shells, &c. which are found on the North-side of Weymouth Bay.

Simple Univalves,

Cirrus	Melania	Serpula	Vermicularia
Helix	Nerita	Solarium	
Murex	Patella	Trochus	

Simple Bivalves.

Anomia	Crenatula	Mya	Sphæra
Arca	Cyclas	Mytilus	Tellina
Astartæ	Cypris	Ostrea	Terebratula
Avicula	Gryphæa	Pecten	Trigonia
Cardium	Lutraria	Pinna	Unio
Chama	Modiola	Plagiostoma	

Multilocular.

Ammonites	Belemnites	Cornu Ammonis*	Nautilus

* These are found in great variety; in the last or exterior chamber, the animal is supposed to have fixed his habitation, communicating with the interior by means of a siphunculus centralis, or lateralis, capable of dilatation or contraction. The septa of this genus are always extended in a particular sinuous form, so that the edges which terminate in the shell appear similar to those of beautiful foliage.

MINERALS.

Fine specimens of chalcedony are found under *White-nose Cliff*. Iron pyrites are also very abundant at different places along the coast. Fossil wood, and tolerable specimens of the orthoceras strata have been met with between *Ratcliff* and *White-nose*, as well as the following:

Flint or Silica	Quartz	Rock Crystal
Talc	Mica	Fluor Spar
Calcareous Spar	Chert	Selenite
Sulphate of Barytes	Apatite	Stalactites

Lapis Renalis, &c. &c. This list would unquestionably be greatly increased if the various strata were more explored.

Fine specimens of various fuci are often washed ashore, the fucus vesiculus is in abundance on the rocks at low water, this is often used medicinally; attached to these and others of the Algæ order, is the Patella Cæruleata or blue rayed limpet.

THE CLIMATE.

It has been frequently supposed, there can be but little, if any, difference in the climate of places, situated near each other, and that in point of salubrity, the preference which one place has adventitiously obtained, must be equally merited by another at no great distance from it, experience however will prove this conclusion ill founded and incorrect; there are numerous individuals subject to rheumatic and nervous irritabilities, who find the atmosphere of the sea coast very relaxing, when conjoined with profuse vegetable exhalations; now, Weymouth is, during the summer months, considerably drier than many places on the coast, it is situated on a soil reclaimed from the sea, and consisting entirely of an arenaceous foundation. Presuming that malaria is generated from decaying vegetable matter, none can arise from the back water, for it must be recollected, that although a considerable surface is certainly exposed to the action of the atmosphere during low water, yet it is totally covered 18 hours out of the 24, by a running tide, which joined with the river Way, has the effect of completely scouring out those impurities which might tend to generate malaria; neither does the country in the immediate vicinage boast of a very luxurious foliage or vegetation, which might assist in decomposing the oxygen of the atmosphere, and thus form marsh miasmata. It has been ascertained that in settled weather invariably, and constantly throughout the summer,

(unless in stormy winds) a current of air rushes down all vallies towards the sea every evening, this generally continues all night, and terminates about sunrise, a mellowed calm succeeds, when the sea breeze sets in and blows very fresh till the evening, then subsiding, a calm similar to the morning ensues, when the evening current re-commences, which has been gradually sweeping over the vallies, collecting various vegetable decompositions, and rolls towards the ocean, creating a degree of chilliness, *totally distinct from the refreshing coolness of a sea breeze*, not at all pleasant after a hot summer's day; this accounts for the changes in the temperature of those places which are so much admired for having a beautiful vegetation, which Weymouth certainly does not possess, and which is more than counterbalanced by its healthy temperature; for in calm and hot weather, the immense quantity of vegetable exhalation which floats in the air over those places, produces a degree of lassitude and sense of weariness which render individuals who are robust, indisposed for, and invalids, incapable of, exercise. Until the present summer, from the above causes and other prophylactic auxiliaries, a case of intermittent was of very rare occurrence at Weymouth, while a few miles from it they abounded; the numerous cases that might be adduced to prove the benefits that have resulted to certain complaints, from a course of bathing and sojourning at Weymouth are innumerable, the rank it holds does not arise merely from its having been the residence of royalty, but from a certain conviction the result of mature investigation, that if it is possible for the suffering agonies of diseased humanity to be relieved, and assuaged, by a series of briny immersions, no place can be better adapted for that purpose than Weymouth; numerous individuals having recovered here that health and vigour of constitution which had been aggravated by a sojourn at other places.

Weymouth has also to boast of an adjunct in its curative properties, by a mineral spring at Nottington, which has for a long series of years been found beneficial in numerous complaints "that flesh is heir to;" the various testimonials that can be adduced of recovery from, and renewed vigour to, a debilitated frame, through the use of this medicinal spring, speak volumes in its praise; it is situated about two miles from Weymouth, and is composed of sulphur in combination with hydrogen. The usual source from whence the public have been supplied was from a well surrounded by a stone wall, the water so procured, being either drank on the spot, or conveyed for use, in bottles or jars; this has been lately altered, the well covered over and the water conducted through

tubes to a house in the vicinity; but on a spot near this well and closely approximating to the River Way (which here exhibits rather a broad surface,) and where the ground obtains an elevation, there has been very recently discovered traces of another spring of a medicinal nature, which bids fair soon to out-rival the former; its prophylactic and beneficial properties have not we presume been fully ascertained; but were we to hazard a conjecture, the intended range of buildings (which is to include cold and hot baths, pump room, and accomodations for those invalids who like to court Hygeïa at her pure and translucent fount,) will create an interest in the neighbourhood, by reducing the capabilities of procuring this mineral water, within the reach of the suffering lot of mortality; the scientific analysis which has hitherto been pursued with the water of this new spring, approximates in its proportions to that of the old well, and when a wider field of practical knowledge is obtained by a liberal use of it, the importance of this remedial agent will without question be lauded by the tongue of the renovated sufferer. It is rather extraordinary that although the spring has been long known to the public, the accommodations for those who have occasion to drink it, should have been upon so limited a scale, but it is sanguinely to be hoped that the attention which the proposed erections will excite, will create an impulse that will tend not only to the benefit of the Hamlet but also of Weymouth and the neighbourhood.

A List of ROMAN COINS found at Jordan Hill, in an Urn, August, 1812.

Gallienus obt. 259; Gallus 251; Postumus Tyrannus, who appears to have been Proprætor or Governor of Britain, and was one of the thirty tyrants and reigned in Gaul obt. 260; Phillip, obt. 249; Gordianus, 244; Volusianus son of Gallus, 251; Trajanus Decius, 251; Salonia wife of Gallienus, 268. The Coins bear the following impression. IMP: PHILLIPOUS AUG: the reverse a Soldier with a legionary ensign in his left hand and a manipulus in the right. Inscription, MOBILITAS AUGG.

IMP: C: M: Q: TRAJANUS DECIUS AUGG: rev. a figure with a legionary ensign in his left hand. Inscription, DACIA.

IMP: GALLUS AUGG: rev. a figure holding a staff in one hand and a cornucopia in the other. Inscription, LIBERTAS AUGG.

IMP: M: JUL: PHILLIPUS AUGG: rev. a female holding a pair of scales in one hand and a cornucopia in the other. Inscription, ÆQUITAS AUGG.

SALONINA AUG: rev. a female figure with a staff in one hand and the other extended. Inscription, —SCIA.

IMP: C: P: LIC GALLIENUS AUG: rev. the figure of Concord. Inscription CONCORDIA.

IMP: CÆS C: VOLUSIANUS AUG: rev. a figure the same as Philip's. Inscription, ÆQUITAS AUGG.

IMP: C. POSTUMUS P. F. AUG: rev. a figure holding a spear in his hand. Inscription, —CITAS.

IMP: GORDIANUS PIUS AUG: rev. Hercules leaning on his club. Inscription, VIRTUTIA AUGUSTIA.

IMP: TRAJANUS DECIUS AUG: rev. a figure holding an olive branch in one hand and a corona triumphalis in the other. Inscription, VICTORIA AUGG.

DIVO SAL. VALERIANUS: rev. a Temple. Inscription, CONSECRATIO.

An account of the exhumation of some HUMAN BODIES *at Tatton near Weymouth.*

"Tenet hic immania Saxa."

In July, 1826, some labourers in digging the ground for the purpose of opening a stone quarry of cap stone at Tatton Hill, near Weymouth, struck upon several long flat stones, which returning a hollow sound, induced them to persevere in the hope of finding money, the force of their blows fractured the stone and disclosed to the treasure-seekers, not the bright glittering metal, but the certain tokens of decayed mortality;—information of this circumstance having been brought to the author, he was induced to promote a farther investigation into the circumstance, and succeeded in finding several traces of bye gone sepulture; the Hill in question, is a very prominent feature, and from it, a wide expanse of ocean bearing on its bosom numerous mercantile and other vessels, is visible, and below the bleating of the flocks indicate its present peaceful position, this is a wide contrast to the time when these bodies

were deposited; they were in Kist-Veans, constructed of slabs embedded in the ground, and placed on their edges, so as to form the sides, head, and foot, and on these and supported by them was laid another slab as an operculum or lid, these stones appear not to have been fashioned by the art of man, being merely the rough slabs thus converted into a coffin, this is also alluded to in scripture where the altar is by a divine precept ordained to be "built of unhewn stone," they were all the bodies of adults, and a few faint traces of their having been burnt were visible, the edges of the stones retaining some vestiges of fire and various portion of charred wood were found; no coins, celts, or urn were to be discovered which would at all indicate the period when these bodies were deposited, but it is certain that the custom of burying in stones was existant in the days of the Saxons, for the venerable Bede speaks of queen Œdylthryd, (subsequently canonized as saint Awdry;) who died of the plague in 669, being buried in a wooden coffin, as contrary to the usual custom and that her sister, who was an abbess, not liking this departure from "the land marks of her fathers," after her saintly body had been buried for sixteen years, had it placed in a stone one; this mode was countenanced so late as the days of the Henrys, neither was it usual to bury in churches till the invasion of the Normans, for none but those who had died in "the odour of sanctity" had this privilege; this custom, more honored in the breach than the observance, was afterwards incroached upon by the feudal barons, founders and patrons of christian edifices, who crept so close as possible to the walls and were buried in the porch, in the entry of the cloisters, in the chapter house, or sacristy; and when aisles and chantry chapels were built, human frailty conceived the idea, that if buried within, in lieu of without the walls, the trump of judgment would certainly sound in their ears the joyful tidings of glorious beatitudes, and lastly even the chancel itself was not exempt. History also acquaints us that the piratical Danes landed frequently on this coast, and before any body of forces could be brought to repel them, laid waste, destroyed, and plundered wherever they could, and then retreated to their ships; the Saxon chronicles state, in the days of Œthelwolf, the 2nd sole monarch of England, they landed on this spot, and ravaged the country in the most wanton manner. The king had ordered hither Æthethelm earl of Dorset, at the head of the Dorsetshire forces, who being assisted also by Wulfhund, repelled these fell invaders and drove them to their ships; this was but a delusive calm, for meeting in the West bay several ships with large reinforcements of piratical marauders; they,

burning with a desire of keeping footing in the vales of Dorset, re-landed, and fleshed their swords deep in the bodies of our ancestors, for so great was the slaughter, that scarcely an Englishman escaped to narrate the bloody contest; these bodies thus accidently discovered, might possibly be some of those who fell that day fighting "pro aris et focis;" especially as there are instances of other bodies having been discovered at former periods in this neighbourhood, at Corton, &c., that they were not the bodies of the Danes is certain, from their being laid East and West, and with their faces upwards, this mode was considered indicative at least of christianity and hopes of heaven;—whilst the bodies of the Pagan Danes were buried with their faces downwards, as having no title to the mansions of the blessed; Speed says, "In the daies of Brightrick king of Wessex, A. D. 784, manie prodigies appeared, and more perhaps than will be believed, for it is reported that in the 3rd yeare of his reigne, a shower of bloud rained from heaven, and bloudy crosses fell on men's shoulders as they walked abroade, and in his 10th yeare were seen fiery Dragons flying in the ayre, which wonders some took to be presages of the miseries following both by the invasion of the Pagan Danes that in these tymes were first seene to arrive in this Island, and the extreme famine that afterwards happened." These wonderful prodigies have since been ascertained to be Aurora Borealis;—the contests between them and the Saxons were often treacherously murderous ere they could seat themselves upon the throne of these realms.*

These bodies having been scattered about the field the author collected and placed them as near as possible in their original position, re-covered them with slabs of stone and earth, and thus again were they hidden from the sight of man.

Upon revisiting it subsequently, the quarry was *filled up with earth* and the waving ear of corn growing luxuriantly *over this spot;* here they will rest for another series of years, till accidental circumstances again bring them to the light, and a wide field of conjectural surmises arise.

* Near the banks of the Ladoga in Russia, several coins with Cufic characters have been found, and one especially having inscribed on it "Ethelred Rex Anglorum." Could this be conceived to have been one of the Dane-geld, carried so far by the hand of commerce and only recently discovered?

5th Stephen, 1140, Warinus de Lisoriis vicecomes Dorset et Wilts, redd. com Dorset, de Dane-Geldo in Tax, £81 8*s*. 2¾*d*.

Warin of Lisures, sheriff of Dorset and Wilts accounts for the Taxation of Dane-Geld, for the county of Dorset, £81 8*s*. 2¾*d*.

ADDENDA.

Since the earlier sheets have been printed off, the Author has been favored with the perusal of several Ancient Records and Documents, from whence he has been enabled to adduce the following corrections and additions.

Page 3. The Roman Vicinal road had a high broad ridge paved with flint, and went off in a Southerly direction from the Via Iceniana, between the Roman Amphitheatre and Winterborn Monkton, ascended Ridgeway Hill, descended into the vale where it still is called Icen Lane, crossed the turnpike road to Weymouth, and terminated at the River Way in Radipole, where traces of it were visible some few years since; there are also some imperfect traces of a vicinal road or track-way leading from the beach to the Tumuli on the Hills.

Page 7. The Bull of Pope Innocent II., confirms the grant "cum piscariis et aliis appenditiis ibidem" which is corrobatory of the estimation this manor had obtained of its reputation as a fishing hamlet, and of its appertaining to the Abbey of Winton.

Page 16. The following was the proportions of all the towns in this county towards the ship money.

Poole, £30; Dorchester, £45; Wareham, £25; Bridport, £20; Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, £40; Corfe, £40; Lyme Regis, £40; Shaston, £35; Blandford Forum, £25; there were also in the county eight ships above 80 tons; 72 small vessels; 605 masters and mariners, and 34 fishermen. At the time the earl of Lincoln held the appointment of Lord High Admiral, vice Admirals or Wardens of the Sea Ports, were generally appointed as deputies of the Lord High Admiral to exercise maritime jurisdiction within there several limits, Colonel Bullen Reymes of Whaddon, M. P. for Weymouth, 13th Car. II., and Anthony Lord Ashley, M. P, for Weymouth, 31st Car. II., held the appointment of vice Admirals, the former in 1674, and the latter in 1693 and 1704.

Page 23. Among the list of individuals who were ejected from their benefices were Richard Filliol, rector of Pokeswell, Humphrey Henchman, D. D., rector of Portland and Wyke Regis, Robert Wishart, rector of Wyke Regis, Richard

Marwell, rector of Melcombe Regis, and John Wesley, vicar of Winterborne Whitchurch, who retired to Preston, near Weymouth, were he died in 1735, he was the father of the celebrated John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodists, one of them visited Weymouth in his itinerant capacity as preacher, and while expounding the Bible on board a ship, was seized and placed in *durance vile*, but was soon released from his unpleasant situation, from whence he prosecuted his mission to the adjoining villages where probably he met with less rigorous measures.

Page 25. The Market Dues were let October, 1829, for £285.

Page 109. The following extract from Doomesday Book, will further illustrate the quantity of land in Radipole.

"Terra Sci Petri de Cernel."

"Ipsa eccla. ten. Retpole. T. R. E. geldb. p. III. hid. Tra. e. III. car. De ea. e. in dnio medietas. ⁊ Ibi. I. car. cu. I. servo. ⁊ I. villo ⁊. bord hnt. II. car. Ibi. X. ac pti ⁊ V. Q. Pasturæ. Valet XL. Sol.

Lands of St. Peter of Cerne.

That church holds Radipole. In the time of king Edward it was gelded for three hides of land, that is three carucates. There is in the Domain one plough with one servant,—one villain and five borderers,—they have two carucates. There are ten acres of meadow and five furlongs of pasture land. It is valued at forty shillings.

Page 110. The subjoined extract from the Placita Forensica in Co. Dorset, will also tend to elucidate the time of granting the Markets.

8vo Anno Edvardi I.

Abbas de Cerne clamat Habêre in Manerio suo de Melecumbe unum Mercatum qualibet Septimana per diem Martis, et unum Feriam qualibet Anno per duos dies duraturam, viz. in vigiliis et in die translationis Sancte Thomæ Martyris per Cartam Domini Henrici patris Regis nunc.

The Abbot of Cerne claims to have in his manor of Melcombe, a market on Tuesday in every week, and a fair in every year for two days duration, namely on the eve and day of the translation of Saint Thomas the Martyr, by charter of our lord Henry the late king.

Page 121. There is in the records of the Corporation of these towns, a letter from that blood-thirsty wretch Jeffries, requesting the mayor to order the execution of two of Monmouths followers, the bodies were to be afterwards decapitated and the heads exposed on the bridge and market place, as a signal of his displeasure.

Page 137. In the Rotuli Hundredorum is a commission of enquiry into the Abbey of Cerne, and the following are the extracts which refer to the possession of this Manor by that Monastery.

8vo Edvardi I., 1280.

" Juratores dicunt quod Abbas de Cerne clamat Habêre Wreccum Maris per omnes terras suas super mare, viz. in Melecumb etc. et clamat habêre ibidem de hominibus suis in Decenna inhabitantibus unum denarium à tempore à quo non extat Memoria etc.

" Juratores presentat quod Burgus de Melecumb est Membrum pertinens ad Baroniam Abbatis de Cerne, quam idem Abbas tenet ab Domino Rege in capite per Servitium unius Militis."

Page 145. King Edward's Charter to the Ville of Lime runs in the following form:—

" Rex omnibus etc. Sciatis quod volumus et concessimus etc. quod Villa nostra de Lime in comitatu Dorset, de cætero liber Burgus sit et quod homines ejusdem Villæ sint liberi Burgenses. Ita quod Gildam habeant Murcatoriam cum omnibus ad hujus modi Gildam spectantibus in Burgo prædicte et alias Libertates et liberes consuetudines per totam Angliam et Potestatem nostram, quas Burgensibus nostris de *Melecumbe* per cartam nostram nuper concessimus, et quibus Cives nostri London, per cartas Progenitorum nostrorum quondam Regum Angliæ, de Rebus et Mercandisis, ejus rationabiliter usi sunt hucusque sine occasione vel impedimento justiciariorum etc.; in perpetuum percipientes etc. nequis ipsos in Personis aut Rebus suis contra Libertates liberas consuetudines predictas gravet etc. Teste etc.

"Aput Aberconwey in Swandon Die Martis 27, A. R. 12, 1284."

Page 146. The following is the King's Writ to John de Metingham.

" Dominus Rex mandavit Justitiariis suis hic breve suum in hac verba Edvardus Dei gratia etc.

" Johanni de Metingham et Sociis suis Justitiariis Itinerantibus in Comitatu Dorset, Salutem cum dudum per cartas nostras concesserimus Burgensibus et Hominibus, dilectæ consortis nostræ Alianoræ Reginæ Angliæ, de Melecumb, et Lyme habeant libertates, viz. quod ipsi de Tenuris suis propriis quas habent infra villas prædictas, aut super transgressionibus ad invicem inter eosdem, Homines et Burgenses in eisdem villis factis non implacitent aut implacitentur extra villas prædictas, prout in cartis prædictis videre poteritis contineri. Nos ipsos Burgenses Libertatibus illis uti et gaudere

volentes, vobis mandamus quod aliquam de vobis associato per vos sibi exparte dictæ Consortis nostræ aliquo discreto Milite, partium illarum assignato ad placita super Tenuris et Transgressionibus hujus modi ibidem præstandum et prout justum fuerit terminandum juxta Tenorem Cartarum earundem.

"Teste Edmundo Comite Cornubiæ etc."

Page 146. The following is the charter of leasing this town to the Burgesses:—

Anno 1mo Edvardi II.

"Rex omnibus etc.—Sciatis nos concessisse etc.—dilectis nobis Burgensibus nostris villæ nostræ de Melecumbe, in Comitatu Dorset; particulariter Radolpho Languinou, Adame de Glide, Gilberti de Porteshame, Henrici Percehaye, Johanni de Porteland, Roberti de Beymestre, Edvardi de Waye, etc., dictam Villam de Melecumb, juxta mare situatam, habendum et tenendum ad firmam fæodam quamdiu nobis bene et fideliter servierint cum pertinentibus et libertatibus liberis consuetudinibus etc., reddendo inde nobis Hæredibus nostris per Annum ad Saccarium nostrum libras decem et quatuor, scilicet medietatem ad Pasche, et aliam medietatem ad Festum Sancti Michælis. Concessit etiam eisdem Hominibus, quod sine contradictione et Impedimento alicujus eligere possint de seipsis, cum voluerint unum vel duos Ballivos, qui de firma ejusdem Burgi, cum predicto Incremento, Singulis Annis respondeant ad predictum Saccarum et de omnibus aliis ad Regem et Hæderes suos pertinentibus etc."

From this last clause and such like expressions, in most of the charters granted about this time to various corporate bodies, it may be concluded that by thus choosing one of their own town to be the bailiff or receiver of the fee-farm rents, these individuals having the rents in their possession, were enabled to acquire sufficient interest to get themselves chosen as parliamentary burgesses.

Page 149. The Grant of king Henry releasing the Burgesses from their tenths &c.

Anno 1mo Henrici IV.

"Rex etc., Sciatis quod nos ex relatione Burgensium et Inhabitantium Villæ nostræ de Melecumbe in Comitatu Dorset, juxta mare scituatæ; Jam accepimus quod Villa nostra prædicta per fluxus et refluxus Maris, superinde sepius effluentis adeo destructa est et vastata quod quamplures Inhabitantium Villæ prædictæ abinde recesserunt, et vix aliqui ibidem inhabitare sedis ponunt, quodque portus ejusdem villæ per tempestatem Maritimam et alia diversa infortunia adeo consumptus et destructus existit etc., Nos nedum præmissa considerentes immo etiam relevamen et commune bonum villæ et portus præ-

dicti;—Concessimus Burgensibus villæ prædictæ quod ipsi Hæredes et successores sui habeant villam prædictam cum omnibus Libertatibus et Franchesiis eidem villæ, seu Burgensibus ibidem qualitercumque spectantibus ad Feodi Firmam durante termino decem annorum immediate post datum istarum Litterarum sequentium reddendo, annuatim pro villa prædicta et aliis prœmissis viginti solidos et pro Desmes etc., sex solidos et Denarium. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium 20 Die Februarii.

Page 164. It would appear from the bishop's certificate, that the erection of an altar in this town was contrary to his writ, or at least had been so erected without his knowledge, though this might have been a contumacious act on the friar's part, it certainly was to be considered as a great step towards a religious one, as the consequence of this prohibition was a total cessation of religious duties in the town. The order of Dominicans were also called black friars and friars' preachers;—it dates its commencement from the year 1215, and were formed on the principle of the Augustan Regular Canons, but professed poverty and were a mendicant order; their habit was a black mantle or cloak, and a hood over a white garment and scapular; their first residence in England was in the year 1217; immediately after their foundation, and settled at Oxford, from whence they soon diffused themselves; they owe their origin to St. Dominic, master of the sacred palace at Rome, and who must be of this order; that engine of tyrannical power and blasphemous perversion of religion, the Inquisition is generally composed of this order and the disciples of Ignatius Loyala, they being chiefly instituted for the conversion of heretics and infidels, their founder for this accession to papal jurisdiction, was by Gregory the 9th, canonized; there were also nunneries of this order, but the number in England only amounted to two; Henry suppressed them, but these friars being mendicants had no pension, as the monks and canons had. It would appear that there were before the period of the introduction of these black Dominicans some traces of religion, for a Henry Waymouthe, clerk, and at his death, Henry Weye of Waymuth, clerk, were instituted to the Rectory of East Ringstead, December, A. D. 1312; and also the abbot of Abbotsbury, instituted October 8th, 1361; a John de Weye, clerk to the rectory of Tolpiddle, and a Thomas de Weye, a presbyter to the vicarage of Tolpiddle, 10th Richard III., 1386, which was confirmed by a bull of Pope Urban VI., in the ninth of his pontificate, it is also evident that one of these friars of Melcombe, Simon Ball, stiled "a friar preacher" was collated to the rectory of Radipole December 18th, 1533,

this was the only Priory of the order in Dorset, and without doubt possessed some considerable extent of ground, daily evidences of which, occur in the bringing to light decayed portions of mortality; it was bounded on the East by the waves of the sea, now a spot covered with houses and called East-street, on the West by the building since supposed to have been a nunnery, but which more probably was a tenement connected with the priory, on the North by the cemetery, and on the South by the chapel. This fraternity also were not deficient in those articles which appertain to a religious establishment, as the following Items will sufficiently demonstrate :—

"Imprimis, a shorte peyr of bedds of gold corall with XVIII stonys of sylvere, and a ryng of sylvere and a Saynte Dominic's shell; sixteene rings of gold and a gymmere, (a ring with two rounds of pearls) of stonys and a bukell of gold,—an Agnus Dei of silvere,—a circlete of sylvere,—a cross off sylvere,—a Box wyth two sylver bedes,—a Patine off sylver,—a Chalyce of sylver,—a Holie Rood,—a Piscina,—a payr off beds off gellt wythe stones of sylvere,—a Pyx,—an Ampul, &c. &c."

These articles were probably given by the devout persons, who came either to worship or die in the celebrated chair of heavenly expectation; the scite of the priory formerly paid a quit rent of one shilling and four-pence to the crown and nothing to the corporation.

Page 194. In 1716, in Weymouth there were 266 houses, and in Melcombe 297.

Page 206. Thomas Arthur Chevalier was also sheriff of Dorset, 21st Richard II.

It would seem that the corporation of Weymouth did not always enjoy their privileges without molestation, there is in the possession of the corporate body, a letter from a merchant in London, who writes to the mayor on the subject of the harbour dues demanded by them, he not only claims exemption as a freeman of London, from all charges and imports, but in a very spirited strain, requests that what has been already paid, may be reimbursed instanter, and if any objections are urged, will seek restitution from a higher quarter. There has also been recently a cause tried at the County Sessions, of a refusal to pay harbour dues for ballast of a certain description, but judgment was given in favour of the corporate body; the charter of incorporation of George III., has also at the same time protected the civil rights of the town, by *two of the inhabitants not being compelled to serve on the jury at Dorchester.*

Page 20. In a work entitled "God appearing for the Parliament in sundry late Victories," printed pursuant to an order of the House of Commons, "Die 4to Martii, 1644," appears the following letters, written by Sir Lewis Dyve, they were intercepted and published. They relate to the capture of the Chapel Fort, and describe various local circumstances.

"To Sir John Berkeley, at Tiverton.

"Noble Sir,

"You will I presume receive notice by Collonel Froad, before this will be with you, of the disaster that happened to us this day, by negligence of some of our Horse, which were beaten off their guard, and persued by the enemy to Weymouth; whereupon a hundred Muskettiers were drawn out of Weymouth to relieve them, which the enemy in Melcombe, taking all advantage of, made a sally over the drawbridge, and have surprised the Chappell Fort; but the two principall forts, where our provisions and ammunition lye, wee still maintain, and doubt not by God's assistance to keep them still, hoping that this misfortune will turne to our advantage, and bee a means that wee shall gaine both the towne and the fort together. Whereupon my Lord Goring hath set up his rest to goe through with it, beeing confident of your speedy assistance in a worke of that infinite importance to his Majesties service; and in case Waller should draw this way, which is not probable, yet your strength united with my Lord's, will be much superior to Waller's, so as doubtlesse wee may fight with him upon advantage; for Kell. Digby came this night to Sherbourne from Oxford, who assured me that Essex and Manchester's forces have absolutely left him, and that he hath not a considerable party with him, his army being utterly broken; so that this place being taken, which we are confident cannot be a work of manie dayes, the West is not only secured thereby, but my Lord Goring will likewise have an opportunity of advancing into the Associated Counties, which are now left naked. And their is order likewise taken that Two Thousand Horse from Oxford, and the Vize shall be ready to attend Waller's motions;—so shall by God's blessing our game goe faire, if not marred in the playing."

"LEWIS DYUE."

"February 26th, 1644."

The following was addressed "To the Right Honourable the Earle of Bristol, at Exeter."

"Dorchester, 26th February, 1644.

"My Lord,

"The Church Fort by a strange misfortune, was surprised this night by the enemy in Melcombe, but the principall forts, where all our ammunition and provision lye, wee still maintaine. Sir John Berkley is sent for hither by my Lord Goring, to draw his forces hither to joyne with ours, he having set up his rest for the taking both that and the town of Melcombe together, which by God's assistance we doubt not to effect, Waller's forces being so scattered by the withdrawing of Essex his Horse, and Manchester's Foote from hym, as he is not in a condition to advance towards us; and this newes was last nighte confirmed to us by Kell. Digby, who came from Oxford. I beseech your Lordship be pleased to employ all your interests with Sir Richard Greenville, to hasten the sending of Fifteene Hundred Foote, or Two Thousand Horse, at the least towards us, to make good Devonshire against the forces about Taunton, and that we may be at a mere distance, to joine together if there be occasion, and he shall want no horse from us that he shall have need of. The business is of that importance as little lesse than the crowne depends upon it; so that we are confident he will not be wanting to us in this extremity. So ceasing your Lordship's further trouble, I remain

"Your Lordship's most humble Servant,

"LEWIS DYUE."

When Col. Sydenham had recovered the towns, he wreaked his vengeance on all those who had assisted Sir Lewis and the Royalists; he printed the examination of his Council of War, in a tract, entitled "The last speeches and confessions of Captain John Cade, and John Mils, Constable, who were hanged at Weymouth," and to which is prefixed as it is called "An insolent and bould letter, sent by Sir Lewis Dyve to Colonell Sydenham;" which from its boldness is similar to the one inserted page 211, and runs in the following strain:—

"For Master Sydenham at Waymouth.

"Sir,

"In your last civill letter which your trumpeter brought me, you charge me with treacherie, and Fabian Hod-

der and his wife for intelligencers and traitors. Look but upon your own hearte, and there you shall finde that character clearly written, wherewith you falsely and injuriously accuse other men. The desire I had to preserve their innocence from your barbarous inhumanitie, was for that I knew their approved loyalty to their Sovereigne, was a crime sufficient to make them expect the worst of ills from a traytor's hand, but doe your will, and heape vengeance on your owne head, by shedding more innocent blood. Patie shall die, deservedly by the laws of armes, for having quitted the King's service, wherein he was entertained, and turning rebel. And whereas you threaten others of an higher orbe, shall follow him, know this—that were all my children under the power of your crueltie, I would not be diverted from justice to save their lives. And for conclusion, be best assured that if you put to death those innocent persons, I will vindicate their blood to the utmost of that power wherewith God shall enable me, upon you and yours, without ever giving quarter to any one who hath relation to you, which shall faithfully be performed by him that professeth himself your Enemie.

"Lewis Dyue."

"Sherborne, the 12th of March, 1644.

"To this malepart letter, Colonell Sydenham returns this modest but souldierlike answer," the stile of which does the Colonel great credit, and is couched in a very delicate vein of irony.

"For Sir Lewis Dyve,—these at Sherborne Lodge.

"You call my last letter civill, and yet seem to be somewhat angry at it, which I should admire, had I not lately given you sufficient cause, for I must confesse ingenuously, had I livery and seizon of your castle, I should not be so soon dislodged without some indignation; especially if an army of mine own party, stood by and lookt upon it. You desire me to looke upon mine own heart, which I have done, and find written there in the fairest characters, a true desire of advancing God's honour—maintaining the King's just power—and contending for the privileges of the Parliament at Westminster, and the liberty of the subject;—which when I find you soe maliciously opposing and despitefully stiling treason and rebellion, I am induced to think this age hath produced unparalleled monsters, who are (without slander) "*pestes humani generis*," for traytor I may not call you, who cannot be guiltie

of such a sin in the opinion of Aulicus, the only author which (it seems by your language) you are verst in.

"You are very tender of shedding innocent blood, and therefore Patie must die, but good Sir Lewis, for what crime? He served you say on your side, I have heard 'twas (as you doe) onely as a scribe, and hath since turned rebel, because he would not tamely stand still while you were plundering him. "*Heu nefas infandum!*" for this, right or wrong, the poor man must suffer, and (setting honestie aside) you will be just for certain. May it please your worship toe bee merciful too, if not to him, yet to me and mine, (when we fall into your hands) till when, your last experience might remember you, that I am as far from fearing, as my present condition is far from needing your quarter, which I hope I shall have an opportunity to dispute further of with you, whom, or any man in England shall answer in this quarrell. In the mean, know that I intend to make a halter of your letter to hang Hodder with, whose crime is the first contrivance of that treachery which you after (though blessed be God! but simply,) acted on, the losse of what you lately valued worth a crowne. Patie you may hang, but will not be able to bury, which may occasion a great mortality amongst you.

"And therefore be advised to forbear, by him, to whom proclaiming yourself a professed enemy, you have invited me as professedly to subscribe myself, Yours,

"W. SYDENHAM."

"March 25th, 1644."

There are also in the Harleian MSS., two letters from Sir Lewis Dyve dated Sherbourne, January 7th and 31st, 1644-45, relative to the Court Martial on Colonel Ashburnham, the Royalist Commander, who had lost Weymouth.

The House of Commons ordered, November 12th, 1644, "That Sir Samuel Luke be required and hereby authorized to seize the horses of Sir Lewis Dyve, Sir William Boteler, and the Lord Capell, and to employ them in the service of the Commonwealth."

Sir Samuel Luke was the original of Butler's Hudibras.

NAMES OF STREETS.

The names of the streets in both towns have undergone great alteration, and their original designation do not appear to be satisfactorily known and are necessarily enveloped in great obscurity. St. Nicholas Street in Weymouth, and St. Nicholas Street in Melcombe, both derive their name from the patron Saint of Maritime towns, the former of these which led to the chapel, is now scarcely known under that name;—Francis Street is also called in old documents, Franchise and Franchayes;—Boot Lane formerly Buckler's, from a family of that name who emigrated to America;—Cribbage Hill, formerly Scambridge and Cratteridge, the latter of these names would appear (if it might be indulged,) to indicate its having been the scene of Volcanic eruption;—Helen Lane, might be derived from queen Eleanor, who held the manor of Melcombe, 16th Edward I.;—Maiden Street, from queen Elizabeth, who united the Burgs;—Conygar, formerly Cunnigar, Coingere, from Conigeria, a Coney Burrow; there are also several streets which derive their name from their situation, thus West Street in both towns; East Street formerly bounded by the sea, has now numerous houses in front of it; New Street, also bore the name of East Street; Edmund, Thomas, and Mary, from their respective Saints; that spot of ground formerly called Townshend Fields, but now covered with rows of well built houses, derives its name from the Townson's whose property it was; Babbridge Square is now extinct;—Silver Street, formerly Leach Lane, called from a family of that name;—Jordan Hill, might also have derived its name from the Jordan's, one of whom was mayor of these towns 1596, an ancestor of whom, in the 18th Henry VI., possessed certain lands here; Lodmoor is called from labe Mor, a marshy land; Bincleves, from the Phœnician Bin, and Saxon, clyff, high cliff. The Nothe probaby from nauðe, a projection, and indeed the ancient name of the County is still preserved in the neighbourhood of Weymouth, at Durdle Rock, which is derived from burbol, a water opening;—Chapelry and Chapelhayes, both describe the boundaries of a Chapel, the scite of the Almshouses and of the Mill, are daily getting unknown, as rows of buildings are erected on the spot, and the noxious mixen is now extinct;—the grounds covered at high water, and called Hassocks, might have derived their name from the feudal tenure of Soccage of Hares to the barony of Cerne; the Abbey and Charitable Lands appear to have been perverted from their original foundation, and converted either into votes or added to the temporal possessions of the heads of the towns, and their limits or location cannot be easily defined. The

names of the new rows of houses are chiefly taken from various members of the Royal Family and of the Borough Patrons, and others are derived from the owner of the lands, &c.; the exact time when the Town Marsh came into the possession of the Corporate Body cannot well be ascertained, it seems to have been leased and re-leased repeatedly—and to have been embanked up and walled, prior to the reign of Charles I., when it consisted of twenty acres and paid a quit rent. There has recently been erected a range of buildings expressly for the accommodation of the fish-mongers and dealers in pork, though the latter exhibited certain symptons of rebellion to the official ordonnance of the mayor, at its opening.

The following Tabular view of the state of the Winds and the Weather from January 1st, 1828, to December 31st, 1828, will further illustrate the position which has been attempted to be maintained of the dryness and temperature of the air at Weymouth.

For 62 days the wind blew in a Northerly direction, 90 Southerly, 98 Easterly, 79 Westerly, 36 Variable—365.

In the same space of time there were 254 days dry, and 111 days wet—365.

INDEX.

WEYMOUTH: PRINTED BY B. BENSON.

ERRATA.

Page 13, Line 31, for *cautly*, read court
—— 16, —— 18, for *charges*, read men
—— 83, —— 11, for *Care*, read Clare
—— 96, —— 9, for *Winbeach*, read Wisbeach
—— 116, —— 21, for *Henchard*, read Trenchard
—— 165, —— 21, for *white*, read black
—— 174, —— 12, for *Christ*, read Chyrche
—— 186, —— 17, for *William*, read Samuel
—— 216, —— 4, dele *earl*
—— 218, —— 37, omitted, Henrici VI., 9*th*, *Westminster*, John Sirla and John Kingswode
—— 224, —— omitted, Jacobus I., 18*th*, *Westminster*, Matthew Pitt, and Giles Green, Esqrs., John Freke, and Christopher Erle, Esqrs.
—— 249, —— 4, for *peforated*, read perforated
—— —— —— 7, for *porfation*, read perforation
—— 254, —— 4, dele *this is*.

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